

977.361

H11h

L.J. HABERKORN

HISTORY OF CHATSWORTH, ILLINOIS

(1942?)



UNIVERSITY OF
ILLINOIS LIBRARY
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN
ILLINOIS HISTORICAL SURVEY

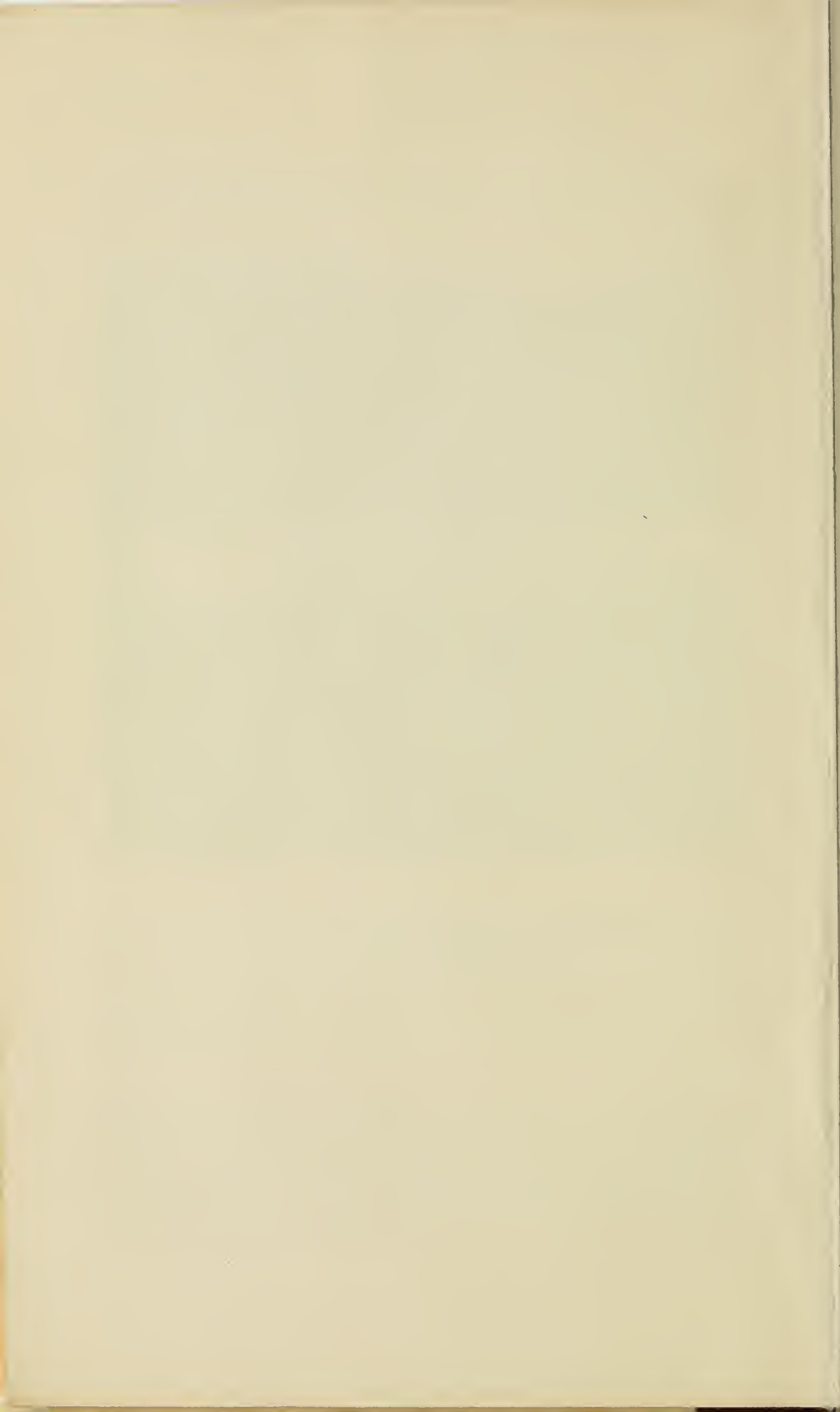
977.361
H11h



Levy & Co.
History of Chatsworth, Illinois.

◁ As Seen By ▷

L. J. HABERKORN



History of Chatsworth, Illinois

AS SEEN BY L. J. HABERKORN

The first white settler in Central Illinois was Franklin Oliver. He was born in Bordentown, New Jersey in 1786 and left there in 1832 in a barouche drawn by two horses.

He was a government surveyor and had started for what is now the state of Missouri. While driving through the state of Illinois, he drove past a fine tract of timber, mostly walnut and other hard woods. He was so much impressed with this that he stopped and settled here. He built a log house (I have been in this very odd log house several times), named the Timber "Oliver's Grove, which name it still retains.

Later on he took possession of some 4,500 acres of land which contained this fine tract of timber, the balance being prairie land and a large swamp which extended through the timber.

At this time this part of the country was very wild. There were seven different tribes of Indians around here, among which were the Algonquin and Kickapoo tribes, the latter the most savage and almost constantly at war with the rest. Two of these tribes fought a desperate battle lasting for days, about one-half mile east of Oliver's Grove; this is where many arrow heads may still be found.

Mr. Oliver saw some very hard and tough times, but he had a way of getting along with these Indians nicely; in fact, became a relative of some of them a little later on. After more people began to arrive and settle here the Indians moved farther west, but as late as 1840, some of the chiefs returned to pay a little visit to Mr. Oliver.

There was much wild game of all kinds, such as timber and prairie wolves, foxes, timber and prairie squirrels, gophers, weasels, muskrats, mink, and droves of different kinds of deer, and a family

of beaver was located in a creek in the western part of Oliver's Grove. This was called "Beaver Dam." A few years later they were exterminated by a party of trappers passing though

There were many wild geese, brant, crane, many kinds of wild ducks, prairie chickens, quail and thousands of wild pigeons in the timber. This was certainly a hunters' and trappers' paradise. There were also many rattle snakes in the timber and prairie, and also many other kinds of snakes to be found everywhere.

I might mention that land at this time was selling for from 10c to \$1.25 per acre, and here and there settlers moved in. In 1857 the T. P. & W. railroad was built eastward from Peoria as far as Fairbury, and that fall was built on to the Indiana state line. The next spring Job H. Megquier and family drove with a team and wagon from Panola, Illinois, and located a short distance from Oliver's Grove. Mr. Megquier had quite a trip over here through the mud and while crossing over the T. P. & W. railroad, a little west of Fairbury the team and wagon got stuck in the mud on the railroad crossing. They were in great danger as a train was approaching from the west. The train pulled up near the crossing and stopped, the train crew getting out and helping push the wagon off the crossing (they are not that accommodating now).

In 1858 an Englishman by the name of William H. Osborn, who owned a tract of land some five miles north of Oliver's Grove and through which the T. P. & W. had just been built, came from his home in New York, bringing William Buck, a surveyor, with him and they laid out a village on this land naming it Chatsworth in honor of his friend, Lord Chatsworth, of England. Surveyor Buck was later killed by the Indians. That

same year Charles D. Brooks came from Moscow, New York, and had a small store building built on the lot where the locker plant is now located and became Chatsworth's first settler, store keeper and post master.

Truman Brockway, carpenter and builder, also located here about this time. Some of these early settlers lived in their covered wagons until temporary homes could be put up. Mr. Megquier came in from the farm and had the first home built in the village, the same being put up on the corner where the Dr. Lockner office is now located, and went to work in the store for Mr. Brooks.

In 1860 the first hotel was built by C. W. Drake, on the corner where George J. Walter's home is located; it was called the "Drake House." Different ones began to locate here, and here and there a farmer would take up some land, put up a shanty and start to raise some kind of a crop.

The Civil War naturally interfered somewhat with progress. John S. McIlheney built a small grain elevator a little west of where the Kohler elevator is now located. The T. P. & W. railroad company had a passenger platform about 16x32 built on the south side of the railroad opposite this elevator. Passenger trains would only stop when they had passengers to put off, and if you wished to take a train a flagman would stop same so you could get aboard. In 1863 the T. P. & W. depot was built just about the length of itself east from where it now stands, entirely closing the railroad crossing at Fourth street, and thereby giving the railroad company two full blocks to do their switching without having a wagon road to cross. This made it very bad for anyone wishing to drive to the depot; they were compelled to drove one block east or west and back in order to reach the depot.

The Genart Brothers came here

from New York, took up some five thousand acres of land east, and south of the village. They laid out a factory plot of 104 acres of this land immediately joining the village on the east and built thereon several very large factory buildings and filled them with the finest machinery with which to manufacture sugar and organized the "Germania Sugar Company"—built 30 or 40 houses on the east and south edge of this factory plot for some of their workmen.

They planted all of their land outside of the factory plot to sugar beets. They had to have a large smoke stack for their big engines in the engine room, so they constructed a large smoke-stack, which was at that time the largest in the state. I will give you its dimensions: it was built of brick, the base was 35 feet square, 18 feet of which was in the ground, thus leaving 17 feet above the ground; and from there on it was built round, up to 175 feet, where a projecting ring was formed, then continued up to 225 feet, where a crown was added to top it off.

They finally got to making fine beet sugar (I know it was fine as I ate some of it). At one time they employed 500 to 600 men and women in the factory, and beet fields. They later built up large barns where they fed, and fattened many cattle for market. Many strangers and sightseers dropped into the village and many decided to locate here, and the little burg began to take on much life, and had the promise of becoming the best little city between Peoria and the Indiana state line.

A large pond south of the factory building, containing a few springs furnished the water for washing the beets and making sugar, but they could use more water. Knowing they were only five miles west of the artesian belt of water they concluded to bore a well and try and strike this artesian flow. They got the proper

machinery and commenced to drill.

They drilled and drilled for many months and when they finally reached 1440 feet water began to rush up in the pipe. The foreman was very much elated, saying, "Well, boys, I think we have struck it," but was very much surprised and disappointed when the water stopped coming when it reached to within eight feet of the top. Then he said, "We'll drill a few feet farther and we will surely strike it;" so they drilled some 20 feet farther and here is where they got their biggest surprise; the bottom seemed to drop out of the well and the water rushed down and out of the hole. This was very discouraging, so they gave up the job, but they managed to keep on making sugar for some time.

Failing to strike water in the deep well caused the jealous word to be passed around, "Oh, don't move to Chatsworth; you can't get water there — they drilled down nearly 1500 feet and no water." But this did not stop people from coming here. A Mr. Walker came and built a fine hotel on the corner where Ed Stoller now lives and named it the "Walker House."

Mother's brother, Theodore Wienand, came from Woodford county, Illinois and opened up a harness shop in a small building next door to the post office. He conducted this business for several years and then sold the business and moved onto a farm about one and one-half miles east of the village where he worked and farmed for many years.

Pat Fitzsimmons located here and built a small home on the corner where the Frank Murtaugh home is located. He could not understand why water could not be found on this prairie land, so he decided to try and find water. He dug a well with spade and pick in his front yard and when down 12 to 14 feet he struck a flow of fine clear water.

He put a wooden curb in this well, built an oblong, square tank on a wagon, and started to deliver water to the different homes that had been depending on rain water from a barrel standing at the corner of the home.

In a short time nearly every home had a large barrel standing on the edge of the street in front of their homes. Early each morning Fitzsimmons would drive along with his "water wagon" and if in need of water he would drop the hose in your barrel and fill it with fine, clear water and collect 40 cents.

Several other home owners concluded to dig wells and see if they could find water, and most of them were successful. "Water wagon" prices dropped to 50c a barrel, then 20c and finally Fitzsimmons would deliver all the water you wanted for 10c a barrel.

Father was in business at Pannola, Illinois, and Uncle Louis Mette was in business at Minonk, Illinois at this time. Each had a chance to sell his business, so decided to sell and pay a visit to the promising new village of Chatsworth, Illinois. They made this visit, looked things over and decided that this place would soon be a place for much business of all kinds.

There was only one small grain elevator in the place so they decided to build a larger elevator and go into the grain business. The building spot they selected and arranged for is the spot where the Kohler elevator is now located. They gave the contract to have this building built and began to look around for a home. They purchased a house located on the lot east of the Henry Wisthuff home. Same had been used for a boarding house and contained about eight rooms. They paid \$2,500.00 for this place.

William H. Jones had built a home one block north of the east main street block and built a nice, large public hall on the lot east

of his home. This became known as "Jones Hall," and where they held all kinds of entertainments, such as public meetings, dances, and later on school entertainments.

He also built a store on the corner where the Citizens Bank is now located, and where he conducted a drug store. Later William Wakelin opened up a grocery store next lot east of him.

F. Felker located here about this time and built a home across the street from where the Methodist church is located. He had a small lumber yard located on the corner where the wood working plant is located. He was also instrumental in having the Methodist church built. The building has been somewhat improved but is located where it was originally built.

George Esty came here about this time and built a small hall which was known as "Esty's Hall." Samuel T. Fosdick, an attorney, located here and had the home built where Allie Ryan lives. A hotel was put up on the corner where Bruno Schroen lives. This was named the "American House."

By this time many carpenters, builders, painters and mechanics of all kinds had located and this began to be a still more busy little village. Col. N. C. Kenyon had a small business house built on the corner where C. Louis Ortman is in business but this building faced west. He had a novelty store here and was later on appointed post master, which he also conducted in this building.

In 1866 John Walter built a small store building on east main street, about the middle of the east block, where he conducted a dry goods and grocery store. Bangs Bros. built a two story business store on the third lot west from the east corner of the center business block. They had a drug store on the first floor and A. H. Hall with a photograph gallery,

and Dr. Wm. H. Badgley, a dentist, occupied the second floor. Shroyer & Taylor had a dry goods store in the center of the east business block.

About this time "Chick" Wheeler became a resident and filled the position of station agent for the T. P. & W.

1866—Notice—A meeting is to be held in Esty's Hall May 1st to incorporate the Town.—Wm. H. Jones, President. Samuel T. Fosdick, Clerk.

The vote at this meeting was as follows. For incorporating—24 votes. Against incorporating, 9 votes.

At a election held in Jones Hall May 26th the following board of Trustees was elected. Jacob Titus, John S. McIlheney, S. A. Tuttle, E. A. Bangs, W. W. Sears and Albert Tuttle. 79 votes cast.

Trustees held their first meeting June 5th. W. W. Sears called the meeting to order. Jacob Titus was chosen the first president of the first board of trustees elected in Chatsworth, Illinois.

I landed in Chatsworth, Illinois in 1866, coming with Father, Mother and sister Minnie in a lumber wagon from Panola, Ill. Uncle and Aunt Mette came here about the same time, they going into the east part and Father and family into the west part of the home they had purchased some time before.

When their elevator was finished, they started buying and selling grain and coal. They did not have the facilities for handling grain like we have now. A farmer would drive in with a load of corn and after having same weighed he would drive along side of the elevator, reach out and pull out a floating hopper, pick up a scoop and scoop the load of corn into this hopper which would convey same to the bin below, then with a one horse horse-power same was elevated to bins near the top of the elevator.

Mr. McIlheney lost business on

account of this large elevator being located here, so he had his small elevator loaded on two freight flatcars and shipped to Brenton, Illinois, which name was later changed to Plover City, Ill.

In 1867 James A. Smith became a resident and engaged in the grain business in which he continued for about 14 years. He was also active in helping build up the town.

Mr. Minor came here and built a three story hotel in the northeast corner of what is now the north grade school yard. He named his hotel the "Minor House," and at this time, with three good hotels, sightseers and visitors were frequently compelled to ask residents if they could let them have a room and bed for the night.

The T. P. & W. built a large stock yards in the northeast corner of what is now our west main street park, or just across the main street from the west business block. As time went on, these stockyards became a public nuisance, the aroma was awful, and the squealing pigs, and bellowing cattle being loaded for shipment into freight cars, mostly at night. was almost too much music for the public.

Large corn cribs for ear corn, were built in many different parts of the town, one large crib was built adjoining the stock yards on the east, and running in length from the railroad north to main street. On account of these many cribs, most of them filled with corn, we had plenty of rats.

A Mr. Gulliver built a two-story business building on the next lot west of where the Burns hardware store is located. He had a harness shop on the first floor, and the upstairs was used for a school room. Eddie Schenk, a kid one year older than myself, and I were the only two in the A class. We could repeat the alphabet without looking on the book (smart, weren't we?)

A little later a small one story

school building was built on the lot east of where the A. F. Walter home is located, and then we went to school there for several years. In a short time this school room became too small and a two story house west from where our grade school is now located was used for a school and the old schoolhouse in the north part of town was moved one mile east of town where it is still being used for a school.

Mr. McAlester, who lived near Oliver's Grove came to town once in a while and with an ox team he would plow and harrow our three blocks of main street so we would have a nice street. (My, this was fine).

John Schenck had built the building and opened up a saloon where Mrs. Tayler lives. William Altman built and opened up a dry goods and grocery store in the two-story building west of Schenck's, the Altman family living in the second story. John G. True, a jeweler and musician opened up a jewelry store in a building that was located on the lot where Charles Dorsey is in business.

L. C. Speicher had a blacksmith and wagon shop on Fifth street, two blocks south of Main street. M. Fitzmaurice had a saloon and billiard hall in a building located where Wilfred Graham is in business; he also had a two story building where John Heiken is now in business. He had an ice cream parlor on the first floor, and lived upstairs with his family.

John Dorsey and family became citizens. He had a team and wagon and hauled thousands of dollars worth of merchandise of all kinds from the depot to the various merchants in the many years that he did draying. Robert Adams had a team and wagon and also did a lot of hauling. Lish Lafan had a one horse, two wheel dray and also worked along this line.

I want to relate a little incident here that may be of interest to

the ladies who are so afraid of a mouse that they will climb on top of a chair when they see one. Mr. and Mrs. John Martin lived on a farm about five miles northwest of town. One day Mrs. Martin, with a market basket on her arm, started to walk to town to do a little trading. Those days when you walked in the country, you usually followed a cow path of which there were many. She came to town, made her purchases which she placed in her basket and started for home.

When she was a little over half way home she was surprised when she saw three large grey wolves following her. They growled and snarled at her and came very close. She tossed a package of groceries to them and while they were busy with this she ran as fast as she could for home. They kept on following her and she kept on tossing them packages and made tracks for home as fast as she could. At last she had only one package left, a package of tallow candles. She threw these to them, which kept them busy for a little while. In the meantime she was getting nearer home but still they kept on coming. She threw her basket to them and while they were busy tearing this to pieces she got near enough to home so they would follow her no further. She lost her basket and her merchandise but saved her life.

She later became a widow and moved to town, and finally she married John Orr, a painter and decorator. You older residents surely remember Mrs. Dinah Orr, as was called by everybody.

Brothers John and James Stillwell had a bank in a building that stood where the Stephenson lunch room is now located. 1868—Samuel Patton built the home where E. J. Roach lives. He had a blacksmith shop near the alley where he put in all the time he could spare working on a machine that would husk corn. After putting in 12 years of hard work and

study he perfected and patented a machine that would do this laborious work. He asked \$50,000 for his patent. Failing in this, a Chicago manufacturing company took him into their company and manufactured and put onto the market this wonderful machine, and now you can find them all over the corn belt.

Gus Gunsel had a livery barn on the lot south of the "Walker House."

W. A. Linton built a home in the southwest part of town, and one morning he heard his hunting dog barking while chasing a fine deer. Mr. Linton grabbed his gun, ran out into the yard and shot the deer. Another case I remember quite well, Mr. Linton and his son-in-law went prairie chicken hunting one day and when they came home that evening they had sixty of these fine birds (there was no limit to the amount you could kill).

Dr. Hunt became a citizen and I think, was the first doctor to locate here. He took care of the ailing and the sick for a good many years. This reminds me he had a beautiful daughter, Fanny and when she talked she stuttered something awful. She was quite a singer, and as she sang, beautiful tones came from her lips but no stuttering. This convinced me right then and there, that music hath charms.

W. S. Hall had a furniture store in the west part of the center business block. William Irwin, a painter and decorator lived in the home where Mrs. Seright now lives. William Reed started a nursery one mile west of town. Hall & Crane built the first brick store building on our main street. They had a hardware store in the first story and William R. Dennis occupied the second story, where he did all kinds of tin work and repairing. This is the building where Vince O'Neil has his tavern. Henry Wrede had a shoe store in the east business block where he

made and repaired shoes for many years. Charles Lucas, an old resident, worked for him for many years. Ralph Borgman also worked in his shop many years.

Conrad Heppe became a citizen and opened up a bakery in the east business block, and a few years later he had a saloon in the center business block.

Orange Sanford had a livery barn on the corner lot across the street west from where the Dennewitz brothers have their machine shop. For many years John Rose took care of the livery business for Mr. Sanford. L. W. Chittum had a blacksmith shop at the south end of this barn. Ross and Yates had a dry goods store in the center business block. About this time or a little later, the following became citizens of our town: J. M. Meyers, G. W. Daffan, F. H. Cole, Ed Polk, R. A. Van Alstyne and the brothers, Henry and Merritt Free. These last three were carpenters and builders and did a great deal of the building that was done about town. Dr. Bosstock also became a resident about this time.

May 8, 1868—The Chatsworth Brass Band was organized with the following members: W. S. Hall, N. C. Myers, Wm. H. Jones, L. W. Chittum, Merritt Free, John G. True, H. A. Shroyer, E. B. Polk, E. A. Shroyer. W. S. Hall was elected leader of the band.

Special election was held May 3 whether or not to buy six Backcock hand fire extinguishers; vote was for purchasing, 72 votes, against purchasing, 12 votes; hence they were purchased. At a trustees' meeting held June 5th, Wm. A. Linton appointed the first fire marshal of Chatsworth, Illinois. The trustees had three very large water tanks built and placed one across main street, opposite the center of each business block. They were mounted on a wooden frame or pedestal, about 12 to 15 feet high, the center one being somewhat higher. A well

had been put down near this center tank, a windmill was placed on a tower over this well which pumped water into this tank and this tank supplied water to the other tanks through pipes laid in the ground. Hose could be attached to these pipes and this was the fire protection for the buildings on main street. A cheap 12x16 fire house was erected across the track north of the depot to house the six Babcock fire extinguishers, and a few fire hose.

1869 — Hitching racks for the horses had been placed down on the north side of main street, and to make it nice for the horses the trustees had 2x12 hard wood planks twenty feet long placed on solid wooden framework running from the hitch racks into the street. (This was a great improvement for the rats and before long there were many under this platform).

Michael Sullivant owned a large farm in Champaign county, Illinois. He sold this farm for cash and came to Chatsworth and purchased 46,000 acres of land southwest of, and adjoining the Franklin Oliver land. At this time this was the largest farm owned by one man in the United States. He employed many men and Chatsworth was their trading place. It looked great to see them come to town with some twenty four-horse or mule teams hitched to these old civil war discarded wagons, and load this caravan with lumber, groceries and other merchandise, and the saloon keepers also knew they had been to town.

Stanley & Stevens built a large grain elevator on the north side of the T. P. & W railroad and across the main street about the center of the east business block.

1870—Father and Uncle Mette did not get along in business as they had expected, so they decided to dissolve partnership and sell the business, so W. C. Hall purchased the elevator and business and con-

tinued same. Father took over the home, which he disposed of later, and built the home where Mike Streun now lives. Uncle and aunt moved to Missouri, and father bought a team of horses and farm implements and farmed a short distance from town where he rented some land.

A fine two story four large room school house with stone basement was erected across the street west of the M. E. church, and the building west of there that had been used for a school was moved west and across the street south. This is where Mr. Hurt lives.

Charles Weiland located here and built the home where Mrs. Lou Wienand now lives. Fred Seibold located here about this time and opened up a saloon in the building at the east end of the center business block. A little later he and Charles Weiland had a three story flour mill built near where the Kohler west elevator stands. They made fine flour for several years, but one night about 3 a.m., the mill got afire and burned to the ground, with nothing to fight the fire but six Babcock hand fire extinguishers and a bucket brigade. At a meeting of the trustees they purchased fire hooks, ladders and a small hand fire engine which would require four men to pump it, and used a hose about the size of the garden hose we now use. This was some machine, or a big improvement over the Babcock.

There were no street lamps at this time, and very few sidewalks, and nearly everybody carried a lantern of some kind. It sure looked funny to see a young man (or an old one for that matter) with his "sweetie" on one arm and carrying a lantern in the other hand. You had to be very careful where you were stepping.

Father asked the town trustees for a walk of some kind from Main street to our home. (Well, he got it.) They put down this walk. It was made from rough

pine boards 12 inches wide and 16 feet long nailed on short pieces of 2x4. This 12-inch-wide walk ran from where the Corner grocery is now located to the corner where Miss Mary Herr lives, then west across the street and then north to our gate.

T. Y. Brown had moved to town and was living two blocks north of our home. He also wished to have a walk extending north from our gate to his home, but the trustees refused to extend this walk any farther, so Mr. Brown had this extension built himself, but instead of using boards 12 inches wide he used 2x4s 16 feet long. These were also nailed onto short pieces of 2x4s. Imagine walking single file on a walk only four inches wide. You sure had to be sober. There was another party living in the north part of town. This party got a little too much "tea" once in a while and it was fun for us kids to watch this party as he was going home. He would get along fairly well up to our gate, but from there on for two blocks north it was "hit and miss" and mostly miss for him.

Wm. H. Osborn gave the town one block of ground for a park, and to be used only as a park, but if used for any other purpose the ground was to revert back to his heirs. This is our city park today. We had "Do Nothings" those days as well as now, so when our trustees spent \$75.60 for trees to beautify this park, some complained and said that it was money spent foolishly.

John Entwistle and family came here. He had a large family and four of the boys, James, Thomas, Edward and Aquila, were carpenters and builders and built many buildings and homes in the town.

The trustees decided that it was a mistake to have the three large water tanks on Main street on stilts so they had them lowered and placed in the ground.

Calvin and Holmes started a weekly paper which they named

"The Chatsworth Palladium." They had a small building a little west of the center of the west business block, where they did their printing. Henry Hankins also had a building near them, where he had a bowling alley. It was a common thing to see and hear them bowl all night, or until sunup next morning.

The Wabash Railroad company decided to build a railroad from Chicago to St. Louis, Mo., which they said would run through Chatsworth. They employed Mr. Charles Weiland to see how much money our people would subscribe to have this road run through here. He saw the people and they subscribed quite a sum of money. The contract read that rails were to be down by a certain date. The company surveyors were at work surveying and stakes had been driven through the village on 7th street, or in other words, the street along the west side of the sugar factory plot.

The railroad company failed to have these rails laid by this certain date, so the subscribers refused to pay what they had subscribed. The company knew that they could not enforce collections, so in order to get even with these subscribers they resurveyed the road and built it six miles west of here through the town of Forrest. The large stone piers are still standing in the Kankakee river, showing where the railroad was to cross on its way through Chatsworth.

1871—Hurrah for the Fourth of July! These were the days when we celebrated our national holiday as I think it should be celebrated. We celebrated with patriotism, and not with the thought in mind, "How much money can I make this day?" A subscription had been taken up to pay all expenses. Salutes were fired at sunup, flags were waving and the band came on Main street and began playing patriotic music and everybody was ready for a great day. Lunch bas-

kets were all full of good things to eat, a load of lumber was ready with which to build a dance platform; another wagon with lumber for a stand, cases of pop, lemons, sugar, kegs of beer and ice were on the way to Oliver's Grove.

Two marshals on horseback and wearing red sashes were getting the procession formed, with the Chatsworth band in a wagon prepared for the purpose in the lead. After the band came 40 to 50 wagons nicely decorated with flags and filled with both young and old, and drawn by horses or mules. Our business houses were closed for the day. Everything ready, the marshals gave the order, "forward, march," the band started playing and with kids yelling we were on our way for Oliver's Grove, where we arrived in about one hour.

We find the dance platform and refreshment stand all up and in good shape, several rope swings had been put up on large trees for the amusement of the kids and everybody was ready for a good time. The band played and the German singverein sang several numbers; then the orchestra commenced to play and all who wished could dance to their satisfaction. After some time, all sat down to a fine dinner and don't forget to look at those kids at the swings; they are having a great time. As evening approached, all drove back home very much pleased with the way we had spent our national holiday.

The "Germania Sugar Company" owners or stock holders became very much disappointed on account of not being able to strike an artesian flow of water in their deep well, and other causes also brought much dissatisfaction among themselves so they concluded to close down and quit making sugar. They sold all of their fine machinery to a Mr. Rosentell, who moved all of this to Freeport, Illinois, and with which he started making glucose.

The large factory buildings stood here empty for many years, and the tall smoke stack which could be seen for 16 miles stood there as a monument to what a short time before was a great factory. The land outside of the 104-acre factory plot was sold, some of it to farmers, or other buyers. The balance was rented for one-third of the crop grown on the same, which was corn and some small grain. The factory plot, or part of it, was also put into grain.

Colonel Kenyon, our old postmaster, purchased the factory plot for \$28.00 an acre and with his purchase received all the factory buildings, one-third of the crop and the big smoke stack thrown in for good measure. The Colonel had the buildings torn down and the lumber sold to anyone who could use it, and he had the big stack undermined and upset and sold the brick to anyone who wished to buy them.

The day the stack was upset, all business was practically stopped; a circus crowd was in town to see this done. Two men, one at the southeast corner, the other at the southwest corner of the stack, with pick axes started to pick at the foundation. Several guards were to watch the stack so as to be able to holler "Run" to the two men swinging the picks as soon as the stack commenced to tip. It was to fall south, so when the "pickers" heard the command, "run" they dropped their picks and one ran west, the other east. Seems about 20 feet of the stack started to unfurl from the top and drop straight down, and then the balance fell straight south. It made quite a crash, and my, what a pile of brick! It sure was a sight to see—looked as if a whole brickyard had been dumped there. I must not forget to tell you that while this stack stood for several years after they quit using it, we kids had a great time; we would take all the old paper we could

find, and pick it up and take it into the base of the stack and see the suction draw it up and out of the top, where the wind would take it for a great distance. Many of the thirty or forty homes that the sugar company had built on their factory plot for some of their workmen were torn down and the balance were moved onto farms where some of them can still be seen as you drive east of town.

Mr. Samuel Crumpton became a resident and had a large grain elevator built on the north side of the T. P. & W. railroad, or south of the little park that we now have on Main street, and between the elevator and main street he had his office.

John Schenck built the home in the west business block where Mrs. Winnie Walters lives and he built a two story business house on the next lot west of his home. He moved his saloon fixtures from the east corner building of the east business block to the first floor of his new building, the second floor being used by the "German Sing and Turnverein" where their club practiced singing, and manual training with dumb bells horizontal bars, swings, etc. In a state meet of similar clubs at Freeport, Ill., where they gave prizes, Martin Anslinger, an active member of our home club, competed and brought home the first prize, a beautiful saber and belt.

About this time some of our people thought that there should be a vein of coal found here so they subscribed some money, hired a prospector to drill and see what could be found. They drilled on the south side of the T. P. & W. Railroad, about one-quarter mile west of town. They drilled down several hundred feet but according to the prospector, no coal. After he had received pay for his work, he said to someone, "I can always make more money by not finding coal, than by finding it."

(Draw your own conclusions.)

The Baptist church was built on Fifth street two blocks north of Main street.

The trustees decided that it was a mistake when they put hard wood plank from the hitch rack out into the street; some of the horses had broken through these plank and got hurt, so they thought "we had better get rid of these plank before we have some damage suit on our hands," so they had them all torn up.

At this time J. T. Bullard became a citizen of our village. He built the home where Mayor Dietz lives and started a big lumber and building materials yard where the Hicks oil station is located, and later on he built a large hay press building where the S. J. Porterfield home is located. Mr. Bullard had a section of prairie land eight miles southwest of the village, from which he had cut this prairie hay, hauled to the press and pressed into large bales and in this way he had hundreds of tons of fine hay shipped to market. Many men with teams and hay racks were employed each fall hauling this hay from the field to the village, where it was put into large stacks, some of them being 25 feet wide by 150 feet long. These stacks were placed on vacant lots around the village and during the winter hauled from there to the press. Henry Game was foreman of this work for many years, and divided his time and work between the press and the lumber yard.

William Cowling became a resident; he worked in the hardware store for Hall and Crane for about four years and then took over the "Walker House" and changed its name to the "Cottage Hotel." He also had a livery stable on the rear of the hotel lot. After running these successfully for many years he retired from the hotel and livery business and built and occupied the house that Dr. Lockner has recently made into his of-

fice. Many times, both spring and fall, Mr. Cowling would hitch a team to a buggy and he and I would drive out to the Oliver swamp on a duck hunting trip, and when we came home in the evening we always brought home some fine ducks.

L. T. Larned became a citizen and built the home where William Cording lives; he also built a store building on the corner west across the street from where the Baldwin garage is located, where he had a general store which he conducted for quite a few years.

1872.—July 1st, legal voters petitioned the village trustees, asking that a special election be held to organize the village under general law. Election called, and held July 17th, with the following result: For organizing, 73 votes. Against organizing: no votes. So they organized under the general law, and J. T. Bullard was chosen first president of the first town board of Chatsworth, Ill.

Two brothers by the name of Oswald and Gus Radinski, painters and decorators, also fine musicians, landed here. Oswald was made leader of our band and the name of the band was changed to "Chatsworth Silver Cornet Band."

Dr. Byington and his housekeeper, Mrs. Worrell, and her son, Thomas, became residents. The doctor sure did his part in taking care of the sick and ailing for many years. They lived in a home that stood on the lot where Dr. Lockner has his home.

1873.—The town board purchased from the city of Bloomington, Illinois, their large fire engine. This engine was pumped by hand and fifty men could find places to pump it. At this time it was the largest hand-pumped fire engine in the state. The board contracted to pay \$1350 for the engine, hose cart and 500 feet of hose. This engine would take care of from 1 to 4 sections of hose. The town board decided that now they would have to have a new engine

house; the building was to be a frame building 26x62 feet, 22 feet high, two stories. The contract for the building was let to Truman Brockway. The lower story was to be used to store the fire engine, hose cart and hook and ladder truck. In the rear of this first story was a large room to be used for fire company meetings, and also for town board meetings, and the upper story was to be used as a public hall. Wm. W. Sears built a real estate office east of this building and the town board built a calaboose on the west side, and a bell tower with a fire bell on same was placed near here.

John Speer became a citizen. He bought stock and rode horse-back hundreds of miles while buying same. He also had a corn sheller and shelled many thousands of bushels of corn. I used to carry cobs from his sheller with a bushel basket and dump them in a pile about 20 feet from the machine. Boys of today, I want you to know that I thought I was making money when I received 75 cents a day for 10 hours' work.

Samuel Carson became a citizen. He owned a well boring outfit and he sure knew how to do this work and he put down many wells.

John Timm had a meat market in the center business block. A William Ninemeyer, a carpenter, and friend of his, and he, were both great hunters so one winter morning, the ground being covered with snow, they started out with Timm's team and cutter, knowing that it would be easy to track a deer, if they could succeed in finding one. About the second day out, they chased up a fine big buck deer but did not get near enough to shoot him. They drove out each morning and tracked him until dark; they kept this up into the second week when Ninemeyer got a shot at him which disabled him. They killed him and brought him home.

There was a big pole in front of the meat market with hooks on it so they hung this buck on one of these hooks, and I think everybody around here came to see this beautiful animal, and in a few days Mr. Timm dressed the deer and everyone had a chance to eat venison.

Louis Meister, a shoemaker, and his family lived in a building in the west business block where he made shoes and boots and did repairing.

I will tell you of a little incident that happened between Mr. Oliver and Mr. Sullivant. He wanted to buy Mr. Oliver's land and move his headquarters here, which would be nearer Chatsworth, his trading point. At this time they did their banking in Gilman, Ill. They met there one day and Sullivant says to Oliver, "Oliver, I would like to buy your land." Oliver answers, "You can buy, I will sell it to you." So they figured and figured, and squabbled and squabbled, Oliver wanted \$100 more than Sullivant offered him, so they both left the bank very much disgusted. Two weeks later they again met at this bank and the land question was brought up again, with the \$100 difference still between them. Remember, Oliver had 4,500 acres while Sullivant had 46,000 acres. Finally, Oliver made the mistake of asking Sullivant, "Mike, what do you want to do with my farm," Sullivant answered, "I want to make a barn lot out of it." This upset the whole deal; Oliver became very mad, began cursing Sullivant and he could not buy the land then at any price he might offer.

James A. Smith purchased the Palladium from Calvin & Holmes and changed the name of the paper to The Plaindealer and continued printing it in the same place in the west business block. Robert Van Alstyne worked for Mr. Smith and helped make The Plaindealer a successful weekly paper.

Frank Fowler, a wagon and buggy maker, and at one time a Peoria, Ill., city fireman, moved here from Peoria and went to work for Mr. Speicher. Charles Sivets, a blacksmith, and brother-in-law of Speicher's, also located here and went to work for Mr. Speicher.

George Torrance and Gilbert Wyman, attorneys, both became residents about this time.

Many petitions were handed to the town board asking to have sidewalks put down consequently many blocks of pine board sidewalks were put down all over town.

Lou Bordeaux had located on a farm one mile west of town; his brother, Henry, and the Schuyler sisters and little brother, Ben, other relatives, were performers with the Barnum & Bailey circus, and they, accompanied by the ring master of said circus, used to spend some of their winters here with Lou. Henry was one of the greatest performers that Barnum ever had. I have seen him run down a spring board, jump over 22 horses and turn a double somersault in the air while doing so, but he had an accident one time while making this jump and broke an ankle. This accident stopped his jumping, so after this he acted as ringmaster for many years. The Schuyler Sisters and little Ben were also wonderful actors.

Mr. Buckingham, of Chicago, owned a large farm adjoining the town on the south. L. Curtis was manager of this farm and lived on the same.

A Mr. Buckingham and friends used to come down here from Chicago, nearly each spring and fall on hunting trips and take back with them some very fine game.

Joe Royal and family became residents and lived in the home now occupied by Mrs. Boyle. He did draying and had some forty

stands of bees from which he sold much honey.

S. D. Webster built a two story business house on the lot where George Robinson is now in business. H. M. Bangs had a drug store on the first floor, and O. H. Brigham, dentist, and Dr. Charles True had their offices on the second floor. Dr. True was not only a good doctor but helped in many ways in promoting the interests of the town and later on he helped build up and arrange a great many Fourth of July parades.

E. Lungus had a saloon in the east business block, which was later taken over by John Brown, who conducted the business for some years. E. A. Jackson had a hardware store in the east business block where he manufactured all kinds of tinware and did much repairing.

J. J. Lantry and Amos Roberts became citizens and under the name of Roberts and Lantry, they went into the hardware business in a building located on the fourth lot from the east corner of the center business block until a fire burned their building, stock and fixtures. (I will speak of this fire later on).

Frank Osborn, brother of Wm. H., and family became citizens and lived in a home that he built on the east side of Fourth street four blocks south of Main street.

Thomas Curran became a citizen, built and lived in the home where Mrs. Kewley lives. He was our police justice for many years. They had two sons, William becoming a wonderful attorney and his brother, Charles, becoming a great baseball player.

1874—June 23rd, a petition presented to the town board asking them to declare the stock yards a nuisance. May 7th, at a meeting of the town board, J. M. Meyers appointed police and night watchman at a salary of \$60 per month. Gilbert Wyman appoint-

ed corporation council at a salary of \$150 per year.

John P. Hansen became a citizen; he was a baker and started a bakery in the east end building in the east business block, where he continued in business for some years. Wm. A. Walrich and family became residents; he conducted a meat market in the center business block for many years, and then sold out to John Mauritzen, who continued the business for a good many years.

Sylvester Moore and family became citizens. He had a team of horses and did drayng and garden-
ing.

The Presbyterian church, a two story frame building, was built on the lot east from where the Chatsworth Hotel is located. They held church services on the ground floor, the second story being used as a hall for entertainments.

J. H. Megquier built a new home across the street from where this hotel is located. His daughter Mary (Mayme, as most everybody calls her) is still living there.

The Catholic church was built on the lot on the corner north and east from where the new church is located. Father Fanning, who was located at Fairbury, drove over with horse and buggy every other Sunday to say 10 a.m. Mass. and he did not have the nice hard road to drive on either; many times the roads were very muddy.

And now that we have a fine large fire engine, and a volunteer fire company of some fifty men, of which Frank Fowler has been elected foreman, we must have some more large water tanks to supply the engine with water in case of a fire, so the town board decided to put down more tanks, which were placed in the ground, near a church or other large building. These buildings had spouts on them to catch rain water and this water was run into these cisterns through pipes in the ground and in this way we had

water to supply the fire engine in case of a fire. These cisterns were large and cost \$64 each.

The fire company held their meetings the first Thursday of each month. Three taps of the fire bell every other minute for several minutes is the call for fire meeting, and a fire alarm was given by a continual tapping of the fire bell.

George L. Hemperly was appointed town clerk. R. R. Tuckerman and family became citizens. He was a shoe maker and had a shop in a small building that was located on the lot where the Dorsey Sisters are in business.

At an election held in the office of W. W. Sears April 20th, the following were elected members of the town board: Jas. A. Smith, E. A. Bangs, Chas. Weiland, J. E. Brown, Wm. Dennis and John G. True. Town Clerk, Geo. L. Hemperly. At a meeting of the board April 27—Jas. A. Smith was elected president of the board.

1875—J. L. DeLong and family located here and he went into business in a two story building located on the lot where Al Gerbracht is in business. He had a grocery store on the first floor and the family lived upstairs.

There was an old and respected couple, a Mr. and Mrs. S. A. Stoddard that I knew quite well who lived in a home that stood on the lot where Claire Kohler has his home. They were the great, great grandparents of Mrs. F. L. Livingston.

At this time nearly every family had a good milk cow in a barn on the rear of their home lot, and nearby a pen with a few pigs in it, and each morning no later than 8 o'clock during the summer months we kids had to drive the family cow to the cattle pen in the east part of town to Martin Hickey, who took care of this herd of cows for many years and drove them out to a pasture that he had one mile east of town, and each evening about 4 o'clock we had to go

and get the cows and drive them home again. You bet we always had good milk and butter and enough leavings to help feed the pigs. A few years later Samuel Carson had charge of this herd of cows and took care of them for some years.

Petition of 67 citizens presented to the town board asking them to declare the stock yards a nuisance and have same removed from their present location.

1876—A family by the name of Shearer had a grocery store in the east business block. They sold this to Mike Reising who continued the business for some years. Ferdinand Struckmeyer and family became residents. He built and lived in the home where Mrs. Baltz lives. He had a harness shop in the east business block, which he conducted for many years.

Miss Delia Griswold had a millinery store in a building on the lot where The Plaindealer is located. Martin Ostertag, a tailor, located here and had a shop in the center business block. Sam Fells and family located here. He started a soap factory on North Fifth street, where he made some fine soap.

Uncle and Aunt Mette moved back here from Missouri. He started a restaurant and confectionery in the east business block. He ran this for several years, then bought the home that was located on the corner where the Buus store is located. He built onto the front of this home, making a store building out of it. He then moved his store fixtures into this place, where he continued his business, and as a sideline he bought and cribbed many thousands of bushels of ear corn. After several years he built the home where Miss Marie Klehm lives, and lived there to the end of his days.

1877—John G. True was elected leader of the band and I and others were asked to join the band. Name of band changed to "True's

Cornet Band." This band played a great many engagements in and around home.

A. F. Osborn was appointed station agent for the T. P. & W. railroad. About this time, with the Vermilion swamps of four sections covered with water and rushes at the head of the Vermilion river nine miles northeast of town, and the 46,000 acre Sullivant farm about the same distance southwest of town, this sure became a paradise for duck hunters. As soon as spring weather opened up thousands of different kinds of ducks, brant and geese would come up from the south and make this swamp their headquarters until warmer weather would cause them to fly further north. Thousands of them would fly over town four times a day going back and forth from the swamps to the Sullivant feeding ground, then as fall and cooler weather came they would come back from the north, stop at this swamp and fly over town four times a day. Early in the morning and each evening the corn fields were full of hunters watching for these flights, and as winter came they would fly further south.

My old friend, Frank Sears, and I kept the north side of the town supplied with game. Our mothers would pick the ducks for the nice feathers, which they put into feather beds and pillows. Frank and I came in from the swamp one day and we each had 44 ducks and when we came up town that evening we would say to our friends and neighbors, "go down to the house and get a pair of nice ducks for your dinner tomorrow;" and they sure accepted our invitation. Hunting is better nowadays than it was then, but shooting is not nearly so good. I wish that some of you hunters today could have been with us those days. Boys, what fun! There was a big pond where John Brosnahan's home is located. Father used to kill ducks that had lit there.

When you wished to go anywhere those days you either went afoot, horse back or on the train, or with team and wagon. We had a seat on the wagon box made of a board with a sheep skin laid on same. We thought this a wonderful seat; but say, what is this man sitting on as we see him driving by? Why, it's a spring seat; he is getting stylish, isn't he?

Then came the spring wagon, and later on, the buggy.

This reminds me, one spring we had a lot of rain and the roads were very muddy. I saw a man driving up our main street with team and wagon; he was sitting on a board seat laid across the front of the wagon box. He was wearing rubber boots. The mud was very deep and it was all the horses could do to pull the empty wagon and before he realized it, the doubletree broke.

He had the lines wrapped around his hands and before he could let go of them the team pulled him over the dash board. He gave a jump and lit on his feet in the mud. The team gave another jerk and he made another jump, which pulled him right out of his boots and he lit in the mud in his stocking feet. By this time he was able to release his hold on the lines, and the team went on. They could not run away on account of the deep mud and were caught by someone at the corner. This, to me was a very comical picture; the wagon, the boots, and the man standing in the mud on our main street.

A. Croscut, a baker, had a bakery in a building on the south side of Main street, across the street from the east business block. He and his housekeeper lived upstairs. He ran this bakery several years and then George Daffin took the same over and had a confectionery store there.

L. Sorg, a tailor, located here and for some years did some fine tailoring.

L. Hamilton a carpenter, and

his family became residents and he did a lot of building.

And don't forget, we used to play baseball those days. We had a fine nine, the Chatsworth Reds, one season they played 16 games and won all of them. The following were members of this club: Ned Scovil and James Fitzmaurice, pitchers; Barney Sears and Will Bullard, catchers; Frank Sears, 1st base and Captain. Ike Bea, 2nd base; George Cramer, 3d base; Dave Shroyer, shortstop; James Dorsey, right field Tom Worel, center field and Charles Curran, left field.

We had a baseball tournament here, lasting three days. Prizes were given for the best teams:— first prize \$100; 2nd prize \$50; 3rd prize \$25. The tournament, was held in our ball park in How's pasture (now Herr's). We built a temporary grandstand for this occasion. Eight different clubs took part. Our Reds won first prize and I think Chenoa won second and Fairbury third. The Chenoa club had the oddest uniform that I ever saw, straight up and down, each half being a different color. You can't imagine how funny they looked., especially while running. We had a very large crowd at this three day tournament, and everybody seemed to have a good time.

Let me tell you, this is one of the greatest towns for its size for getting crowds you ever saw; we had some great Fourth of July and Decoration Day celebrations. We also had one or two big circuses each summer and always had large crowds, and they all seemed to enjoy themselves. We were alive those days in more ways than one, and no matter how hard we tried to be good, there was always someone getting himself or others into trouble, and with three resident attorneys if there was a day passed without a lawsuit of some kind, we considered it a dull day.

John Walter lived on Sixth

street, two blocks south of Main street. They lived in the first story of this home and held German Evangelical church meetings and Sunday school in the second story.

1878 — Father got a team (two mules and a horse), a wagon, and farm tools for me and I farmed four years with him, and I say to you young farmers of today, be satisfied and contented with your farm work today. I am happy to know that you do not have the hard work to do today that we had in those days; you don't have to bind stations behind a harvester, cut bands on a threshing machine, pitch hay on the hay rack with a fork in hand, and then unload it into the hay mow or onto the stack in the same way, and husk every ear of corn by hand.

You ride at nearly all of your work, where in my time the only farm machine where we rode was the corn planter. You don't know what hard work is like, so I say again, be satisfied with your job.

After farming four years (and which work I liked) I said to Father, "I am getting tired of this living in town and farming miles out in the country; say we buy a farm and move on it as we should." He agreed with me but Mother said, "I don't think I would like to live out in the country." I said to Mother, "If that is the way you feel about it I would not want you to live on a farm even if they gave me the farm." We could have bought a farm then at \$25 an acre. Had we done this I feel that I would be in better shape financially than by having roasted peanuts for you the past sixty years.

John Young, a tailor, and his family became citizens. He had a tailor shop and small dry goods and clothing store in the building that stood on the lot where I am in business. Col. Kenyon also used this building for our post office for several years.

Foreman Fowler thought it

would be a good idea to have a hook and ladder company separate from the regular fire company, and composed of young men, so he organized this company of twenty members. I was chosen by the company to act as its captain. We had our meetings the first Tuesday evening of each month. Two taps of the fire bell every other minute for several minutes was the call for meeting.

Charles Reiss had a barber shop in the middle of the center business block, and whenever we had an election they would take one of the window panes out of one of the front windows and the voters passed their votes through the opening.

John Duffy had a billiard parlor in the Gulliver building in the west business block and did a nice business.

The Lutheran people purchased from Col. Kenyon a frame building that had been used by the sugar company for a cooper shop. They placed chairs in this building and used it as a church.

At a town meeting May 28th, it was decided to grant the Kankakee and Southwestern Railway company the right to a strip 50 feet wide the entire length of Second street for their railroad, the company to build and keep in repair all crossings for teams and pedestrians.

At nearly every meeting of the town board petitions were presented for sidewalks and many were put down, the town furnishing the material and the property owner paying for the work.

June 11th at a town board meeting it was decided that in view of the fact that our fire company was doing their work in a very satisfactory manner that we show our appreciation by instructing our board president to procure hats for our firemen and also three firemen's trumpets. At a town board meeting on July 13 the president presented a bill to the board for \$123 for hats and

trumpets that he had procured for the fire company. Bill was allowed and ordered paid.

George Torrance was appointed corporation council at a salary of \$150 per year.

Searing & Messler were in the grain business where the Kohler Brothers are in business.

1879 — The Kankakee and Southwestern Railroad was built as far south as Chatsworth and continued on to Bloomington, Ill. Later, they had a turntable here and a train would arrive about noon from the north, lay over here until evening, then go back to Kankakee. In the spring there were thousands of water fowl around here, so the trainmen would turn the engine around and run some three or four miles north of town where they would shoot brant, ducks and geese until time for their train to return to Kankakee. They had a large grain elevator located near where the depot is now, and their depot was north of this elevator and on the east side of the railroad. Fred Osborn was appointed station agent here for the I. C. railroad and D. J. Stanford elected county surveyor.

One winter night when it was very cold and snowing very hard the fire bell sounded the alarm at about 2:30 a.m. This alarm awoke me; I hurried to dress and as I looked out of the window I saw that the fire was near the east end of the center business block. As I left our home by the front door I noticed that there were no lights in any of the homes around us, so I went back into the house, got my cornet and out on the porch where I gave several sharp blasts, and you should have seen the lights come on. I figured that with a fire on our business street the fire company could use all the help they could get.

The fire broke out in the rear of the Bangs drug store, third door from the east corner of the center business block and it sure

was a hot one. Foreman Fowler knew that the business houses on this corner were doomed to destruction and was doing his best to keep the fire from destroying the balance of the block west of where the fire started.

He had the fire engine over the large tank across the street and had a string of hose laid through the Roberts and Lantry hardware store, as this gave him a better chance to get at the fire. His judgment was very good but just as he seemed to have the fire under control and with the loss of only three buildings, the hose that was laid through the hardware store burst and then this store caught afire and made the fight all the harder.

I was on hand with my company and hook and ladder truck, so Foreman Fowler, through his trumpet, gave me orders: "Lou, hook your large fire hook on the corner of Tuckerman's shop and tear it out of there." This hook was very large, with about 200 feet of strong rope tied to it, so the company chopped a hole in the corner of the shop, hooked the hook on the corner upright and with 100 or more men a-hold of the rope, when I gave the order, "ready," they pulled and in no time we had wrecked the shop, thus giving us a space of about 25 feet to help us stop the fire and save the rest of the business block.

My company had rolled barrels of salt out of De Long's store, mixed this with water and carried it up our ladders in pails and poured it over the east side of De-Long's roof in order to protect it from the heat. This salt (you might call it mush) ran down over the roof and baked and next day as people came to town to see what damage the fire did, you could hear remarks like this. "Well, it could not have been very hot, see the snow still on the roof." If they had been in De-Long's place they would have thought it was plenty hot.

Marion Roberts and family became citizens; he went into the implement business, his son, Charles assisting him, Charles also filling the position of assessor for our township for many years.

Julius Berlovitz came here and started a junk yard which was located on Fifth street, south of the T. P. & W. railroad.

M. H. McCarty became a citizen. He had a confectionery, oyster and cigar store on the south side of Main street across from the east business block..

John Watson and family became citizens. He dug many wells with pick and spade and was an expert in this line. He also kept pumps in repair.

Two large lodges were organized—the Masonic and Odd Fellows.

1880—Capt. H. P. Turner and family became citizens. He had a small grain elevator on the north side of the T. P. & W. railroad, west of the railroad park; bought grain and sold farm machinery and coal.

C. Gunther and family lived in the west business block and next to his home he had a harness shop where he made many sets of fine harness. . . Joe Watson and family came here and he bought and shipped stock . . . Peter Rose and family located here. He built and repaired sidewalks for the town for many years . . . James S. Doolittle and family became residents. He had a grocery store in the east business block and after a few years gave up the grocery business and went into the furniture and undertaking business.

At a meeting of the town board a committee was appointed to purchase two chandeliers, a stove and also to have a suitable stage built and procure chairs for the town hall.

H. S. Sanford bought the team and dray business from John Dorsey and continued to do our draying for a few years . . . Chris Cooper and family lived in the home where Albert Hasbargan

lives. He was a taxidermist and did some very fine work, and his wife had a millinery shop in the front room of the home.

At a town board meeting it was decided to pay Fire Marshal Fowler \$100 per year; he also to keep the fire engine and wind mill in repair; the town to pay for all material used . . . Dr. Hoadly and family became citizens . . . The town board asked their attorney to see to it that the nuisance, the T. P. & W. stock yards, be removed from our midst.

1881 — I might mention that Franklin Oliver died at Chenoa, Illinois, aged 95 years. He claimed that he never used tobacco nor liquor in his life.

Geo. J. Walter and E. A. Jackson figured that our soil around here could be burned and made into fine brick and tile, so they commenced to experiment. There were several blocks of vacant ground at the northwest corner of our town. They took soil from this tract and baked it and found that it was the kind of soil out of which they could make fine brick and tile so they bought this ground, and built a small factory building on it and placed in it their first machine, which was propelled by one horse, which ground and mixed the soil so they could mould it into tile and brick. After a few months Mr. Jackson retired from the business and Mr. Walter became its sole owner and continued the business.

Petition to the town board by J. L. DeLong and others, praying for the removal of the rubbish left by the late fire presented and the clerk instructed to order the proper parties to remove the same within four days or the town authorities would have the same removed and assess the property for the costs of removal.

1882—True's cornet band furnished the music this fall for the Pontiac, Fairbury, El Paso and Wenona fairs, and had several more jobs.

I sold my team, wagon and farm implements for which I received \$625. I had decided to go into business so I purchased the corner lot and the old building thereon, where the Burns hardware store is located, from Uncle Mette for \$500. This left me \$125 with which to go into business. I started a confectionery, oyster and music business on this corner March 8th.

They tell us that our young men have as good a chance now to go into some kind of business we had then (1882). I say they have not got the chance to succeed that I, or we, had. Give any young man 20 years of age \$125 and have him start any kind of business today and I think he would be lucky if he got to first base. Remember, he would have to compete with chain stores, and catalogue houses, something that did not interfere with small business men those days. By the way, I shot two brant from the back door of the peanut corner as they were flying over in great numbers.

Samuel Morganstein took over the junk yard from Julius Berlovitz and handled the same for years. He did a big business. I remember that at one time he had over 500 tons of old iron on hand besides much other junk.

Cornelius (Con) Brosnahan and family became residents. He had been appointed foreman on the Kankakee and South Western railroad. . . Hickman and Currigar started a saloon in the center business block.

Petition signed by many citizens and presented to the town board, asking them to use stone or brick instead of pine boards for sidewalks. The board decided that stone or brick would be too expensive but substituted gravel and slack for this purpose.

Town received word from the superintendent of the T. P. & W. that they would tile their stockyards instead of moving them, but the board refused to accept their proposition.

James Fellows had a meat mar-

ket on the south side business block across from the street from the east business block . . . St. Patrick's Convent was built on Fifth street four blocks north of Main street.

1883—John Walter built the large two-story brick store building on the east corner of the center business block, where he, with the assistance of his sons, Albert F. and Louis A., conducted a general store. The upstairs was used by the Masonic lodge as their lodge room.

The first telephone line was put up. The line ran from Pontiac, Illinois, to this town, a telephone being placed in the H. M. Bangs drug store and a watch had been placed near the phone at Pontiac. People were asked to step into the Bangs store and hear this watch tick. Many went in and listened, but could not believe it possible that they were hearing a watch tick some thirty miles away.

John G. True and I decided that we would run a roller skating rink so we made arrangements with the town board for the use of the town hall. We had to pay \$2 an evening for the use of the same and we were to furnish our own lights and heat. We ordered our skates and opened up for a good time. We had a good attendance the two evenings that we skated on this pine floor. I wish you could have seen this floor; the roller skates simply ruined it, so we made this proposition to the board: we will put a hard wood floor in the hall and pay for it and take it out in rent at the same rate as before and the board accepted our proposition. After we had this fine floor laid we surely had a fine place for roller skating which we kept up for several years.

The town board appointed our first board of health . . . Matt Myers was appointed town police by the board . . . Several petitions were handed to the town board, asking them to place lamp posts

with kerosene lamps on same on some of the main corners of the town.

Fred Harbeke became a resident and started a blacksmith shop in the block across from the east business block, where he conducted this business for some years. . . . The town board replaced some of the worn-out board sidewalks with slack, and some with gravel . . . John Taylor, a stone cutter, had a place in the west business block where he manufactured tomb stones.

Politics was very much alive in those days. We had a big Republican club and a big Democratic club here, each having from three to 500 kerosene torches, and during a presidential campaign, there would be some great torchlight parades with bands and after these parades they would have some noted speaker explain political matters to them in the park.

E. A. Bangs had his drug store in the old Jones building on the west corner of the east business block. A party came here and built a good size one story building out of rough lumber on the south side of west Main street about one block west of First street, where they were going to waterproof cloth with synthetic rubber and the same was to be manufactured into different kinds of goods and clothing. They worked and experimented here about one year and then gave up the job as being unsuccessful.

Mr. and Mrs. John Hughes occupied a two story store building in the center business block. They had a restaurant in the first story and rooms to let in the second story. It was generally reported that this man Hughes was one of the party that tried to steal the body of President Lincoln.

John G. True and family moved to Peoria, Ill. . . . Isaac Rosendahl had a clothing store in the east business block . . . W. W. Sears was appointed our postmaster; he had the post office in the west business block.

1885— I was elected leader of our band; the name was changed to "Haberborn's Cornet Band" This band had a fine set of silver instruments, and two sets of fine uniforms and held together for twenty years with practically the same members. They furnished music for many occasions. They had their band room at the rear of the Masonic lodge room where they had their regular practice each Monday and Friday evening.

1886—As time passed these T. P. & W. stock yards right here in our midst became a greater nuisance than ever, so imagine yourself being in my place. Here I was in business and living in the second story just across the street from these yards, and receiving the full benefit from their being there. So I made up my mind they were going to be moved out of town by one way or another. I got up a petition to the railroad company, through our town board, showing that our town had fooled with the question of moving this nuisance since 1874 but now the time had come when they must be taken away from main street. This petition had more signers than any petition ever presented to the town board and was presented by them to the officials of the railroad.

The president of our town board sent this petition to the officials of the railroad company and received word back that they would be out here in their special train Wednesday of the following week to see about this matter.

I was invited to go with the board and meet these officials, so when they arrived we got on their special and listened to all kinds of promises about tiling the yards, etc. Our reply was that tiling would not be satisfactory, we demanded the removal from our main street; finally our town board agreed to buy the ground to which the yards were to be moved, and in return the railroad company was to give to the town for park purposes the ground former-

ly occupied by their stock yards. And don't forget that our town board paid \$50.00 for the ground to which the yards were to be removed. The following week the railroad company sent out a train of several flat cars and some thirty men and in a few hours the big nuisance was loaded on these flat cars ready to be taken to the new location six blocks west of town.

Talk about rats, I remember quite well when the large corn crib that stood right east of the stock yards was torn down, several parties with good rat terrier dogs were on hand, and these dogs killed 105 rats as they ran out from under this crib. Now don't say "Oh, rats!" because I tell you this is a fact. And now that the stock yards and this large corn crib had been torn down, or moved, some of us thought it would be a good idea to try and have the railroad company move their depot which stood in such a position that we could not have a street crossing over the railroad at Fourth street, so we presented a petition to our town board, asking them to have this done, and after some figuring and rag chewing with the officials of the railroad company they agreed to move their depot, and put in this street crossing for \$100, about what it would cost them to have this job done. The board agreed to pay them this and in a few days a special train, with equipment and a number of workmen came out from Peoria, raised the depot, put plank and rollers under it and with one end of a cable hitched to the depot and the other end to the engine it was soon moved about the length of itself west and placed on a new foundation where it stands today.

John McBride had a billiard parlor in the west business block. . . . Foreman Fowler passed away and W. G. Messler was appointed foreman of our fire company . . . John Brosnahan was appointed station

agent for the I. C. railroad company.

Chris Becker became a citizen and he and David Brobst, another citizen, became partners in a furniture and undertaking business under the firm name of Brobst & Becker, their business being located in the east business block.

The town board appointed O. Sanford day police and S. Moore night police. At this time there were thirty or more lamp posts on the corners, and other places about town, to light our streets. These lamp posts had kerosene lamps on them and one of Policeman Moore's jobs was to keep these lamps filled with oil and the chimneys cleaned; then as night approached he would take his little step ladder, kerosene can and rags and walk around to these lamp posts, fill the lamps, clean the chimneys, and light the lamps and then at midnight he would take his step ladder, and go to all of these posts and put out the lights. And don't forget that he got plenty of exercise as this job caused him to walk about thirteen miles a day, and at the magnificent salary of \$35 per month.

The T. P. & W. railroad officials sent advertisements along their line reading as follows: "Grand Excursion Wednesday, August 10, Peoria, Ill., to Niagara Falls, and return for only \$10. Come and be with us on this wonderful excursion trip; tickets on sale at all stations." The train was scheduled to pass through here at 8:30 p. m., but was delayed all along the line; hence did not reach here until 11:30 p. m. The train consisted of two engines and sixteen wooden coaches, as follows: Baggage car, Superintendent Armstrong's private car, chair car, eight day coaches and in the rear were five Pullman sleepers, and in all there were about 800 passengers, the following from here: Mr. and Mrs. T. Y. Brown, William Hallam Sr. and son, William; Alva Cunningham and Bishop Judd, none of

whom were killed, but one or two were slightly wounded. There were 81 killed and 372 wounded, several of whom died afterwards from their hurts.

This, in my estimation, was not an accident but a case of criminal carelessness on the part of the railroad officials. Had they done what they full well knew they should have done and which was prevalent in those days, was to send a pilot engine with engineer, fireman and brakeman on the same, the latter equipped with lantern, torch and torpedoes. This pilot engine was sent several stations ahead of an excursion train for the purpose of seeing that the track was in perfect condition, and if not the brakeman was in a position to stop the excursion train and thereby prohibit an accident like this, that caused people in many of our states to mourn. Had the railroad company done their duty as they should have done, I would not be seeing in my mind, these horrible sights all over again as I saw them that terrible night.

Dr. C. V. Ellingwood had intended to locate in Cullom and was visiting his friend, Dr. Vaughn, here at Chatsworth when the big wreck occurred. Dr. Ellingwood, with many other doctors, did all they could to alleviate the sufferings of the many wounded. This, no doubt caused the doctor to locate here with his family, so what was Cullom's loss was Chatsworth's gain.

James Heald had a meat market in the center business block where he did a nice business . . . Brothers Clauss and F. R. Beckman had a blacksmith and machine shop where the Dennewitz Bros. are located . . . T. P. Liston was agent at the T. P. & W. depot at this time and his brother, Mike, was a brakeman on this road . . . John Linehan and family became residents; he was superintendent of the I. C. railroad line from Kankakee to Bloomington.

They lived in the home where Mrs. Boughton lives.

By this time the Walter tile and brick factory, by careful figuring and hard work, had put up larger buildings and placed in them fine machinery and had a force of men working, turning out thousands of tile and brick of a quality that were hard to beat. Wm. H. Walter and family became citizens, he getting the position of engineer at the Walter factory, which position he filled for many years.

We had a nice lawn tennis club, and on the lots across the alley north of my place, with no buildings on them, we had two tennis courts and two croquet grounds, where we had great fun playing these games.

Charles Gumbel started a jewelry store in the room where John G. True had been in business . . . Ed McCabe and Max Traub had a clothing store in the building that stood on the corner lot where Jas. A. Baldwin is in business, and roomed in the first room upstairs.

1888—The two story brick store building on the second lot from the west corner of the center business block was built by Jas. A. Smith and he moved The Plaindealer from the west block to the second story of this building, the first story being occupied by Beach and Co., dry goods.

Henry Game was appointed by the town board as our fire marshal, and by the fire company as their foreman, which position he held for a good many years . . . John F. Hubbard had a restaurant in the west business block . . . J. E. Brown had a bank in the building, where the Stilwell Bros. formerly had a bank, and as I said before this building was located where the Stephenson lunch room is located . . . And now, with the depot moved and the railroad company ready to put in this street crossing at Fourth street, the town hall, Sears' office and the calaboose still blocked the opening of this street. The calaboose

was moved several hundred feet west, and the Sears office was moved west and across Main street (this is where Carl Milstead has his business).

1888—

The town board decided to move the town hall from its present location with a view of opening this street but before doing this they thought best to call a special election to see if this move would be approved by our citizens. So this special election was called for May 31st, with the following results: for moving, 85 votes cast; against moving, 85 votes; cast or in other words a tie vote. So they held the second special election June 24th, to try and decide this question with the following result: for moving, 94 votes. In those days you could prepare your own vote on any kind of paper, one party doing this, handed in by mistake a lumber receipt. As this was no vote it was thrown out, leaving the vote for moving 94 votes and against 93 votes, so the town hall was moved one block north on Fourth street and located on the corner lot where the present engine house is located. And now with all the buildings that block a Fourth street railroad crossing moved out of the way, the officials of the T. P. & W. did their part, and according to agreement fixed up this crossing and it is now in shape to be used by the public and all say that it is a great improvement.

Anton Ortman and family became residents. He bought out William Altman and continued the dry goods and grocery business, and the family living upstairs.

Father J. J. Quinn was appointed to locate here. His first Sunday at church he told his congregation, "This church building is entirely too small for a congregation of this size and I am laying plans for a larger and much finer church building to be built on the corner north of our convent." All

expressed their willingness to do their part and in a short time the building was started and when finished was dedicated.

John Ferrias had a meat market in the west business block . . . William Walrich had a saloon in the center business block . . . P. L. Cook had a hardware store in a frame store building on the corner where The Grand is located . . . E. Haberkorn (Father) had quit farming and started a billiard parlor in the Gulliver building in the west business block.

1890—S. L. (Bony) Martin bought the Walrich saloon, building and fixtures and continued the business . . . Dr. Seright became a resident and, bought the practice of Dr. Vaughn.

June 8th — Saints Peter and Paul's church completed and to be dedicated today.

The night watchman sounded the fire alarm about 3 a.m., when he discovered a fire in the rear of the Brown bank building. I could tell you what the report was at this time as to the origin of this fire, but will only say, it seems a kerosene lamp was accidentally upset in the back room and into a pile of cobs and before the parties realized what had happened the fire had started. I, living on Main street, was the first to respond to the fire alarm, and as I was then foreman of the fire engine, I made tracks for the engine house. The town board had placed the town hall on a foundation so high that the platform in front of it was so steep that unless there were firemen enough around to hold the engine back, it would run down this platform and across the street. There were only three of us there. Ed Megquier and I took hold of the tongue, while Lawrence Streun held onto the back, but in spite of us, it nearly ran through the fence on the opposite side of the street.

There was a large water cister under this platform, but we could not push the engine back over

this cistern, so we continued on to Main street and east to the cistern on the south side of Main street at the center of the block. The fire had gained a good start, and we really had two fires to fight, one burning east, and the other one west. We firemen, with the good assistance of our citizens, did all we could to put out the fire but in spite of all that we could do the entire block of buildings went up in smoke with the exception of the Walter and Smith buildings, which were built of brick. This was an awful night and morning for Chatsworth; nearly a whole block gone and the south side of the street piled full of all kinds of goods and furniture taken from the store buildings. Loss was estimated at about \$100,000.

I was very tired after hours of hard work fighting this fire but was still able to direct an orchestra, band and choir that I had in the gallery of the new church for the dedication. There was a very large audience present, not only from here, but from neighboring towns. I will never forget the morning of June 8th, 1890.

A. J. Waugh, a veterinarian and his family lived in a home that stood where Elmer Pearson built his new home . . . The Walters built a two story brick business building next to the corner building at the east end of the center business block.

1891 — Ringler Bros. had a saloon in the west business block. There was a fire discovered by our night watchman at 3 a.m. one morning on the outside east wall of this place. He gave the fire alarm and the fire company responded without delay and worked very hard to get the fire under control. The building was badly damaged but the fire got no further.

J. E. Brown opened up his bank in the third building from the west corner of the east business block, where he continued in the banking business for some years.

There was a lady living in the southwest part of town who claimed that she got hurt on one of our broken wooden side walks, and brought suit against the town for \$5,000 damages, and after several trials she received a judgment against the town for \$3200, which the town was compelled to pay. Many of our citizens believed this to be a fake case, but it cost the town about \$5,000 but put a stop to building more wooden side-walks.

Brothers Hiram and William Royal, carpenters, did a great deal of building in and around the village.

John Walter retired from business, turning the same over to two of his sons, Louis A. and Albert F. who continued the business under the firm name of Walter Bros. . . L. C. Speicher had a two story business building in the east block on the south side of Main street, the first story was used for a blacksmith shop and the second for a public hall, where we had drama, with home talent, minstrels shows and dances.

1892—I sold the "peanut corner" building, stock and fixtures to Frank Barnum. He ran the business a short time and then took his brother-in-law, Hugh Rice, in for a partner.

Grant Roberts had a barber shop in the basement of the west corner building of the center business block, and later added billiard and pool tables to his barber business.

1892—The Rosenboom family landed here coming from Germany. Mr. Rosenboom was a carpenter and helped to do some of our building . . . Jas. A. Smith built the two story brick business house on the west corner of the center business block. T. E. Baldwin had a grocery store in the first story and Dr. Ellingwood had his office in the corner room upstairs, and the K. of P. lodge used the balance of the upstairs as their lodge room. The doctor built his home

on Fourth street two blocks north of Main street . . . Wm. Gardner built the two story brick business building where Charles Dorsey is in business. He had a restaurant in the first story and rooms to let upstairs . . . H. M. Bangs had a drug store in the store room where Will C. Quinn is in business.

1893—John P. Hansen built the two story brick business building where George Robinson is in business. He moved his bakery from the east business block into this new building and lived upstairs with his family . . . Mike Reising built the one story brick business building where John Heiken is in business, and moved his grocery store from the east business block into this new building where he, with the help of Joe and Charles Dorsey, continued the business for a good many years. His wife had a nice millinery business there also.

Our town board figured that we should have better fire protection, so in order to procure this they had a deep well drilled in the center of our city park, where they struck an abundant flow of water; then they had a large 1600 barrel water tank built on frame work about 100 feet high, with a gas engine to pump the water into this tank, then they laid some water mains on Main street and several blocks each way from this street and placed eleven hydrants on these mains.

About 3 a.m., one morning the night watchman sounded the fire alarm when he discovered that the town hall was on fire. The fire company responded promptly but the best they could do was to save the fire engine and hose cart. The building was entirely destroyed, with extra hose, hook and ladder truck and ladders.

1894—Wm. Smith had a confectionery store in the building vacated by Barnum & Rice.

1894 — C. C. McDonaid and Clyde Hayes got permission from our town board to build an elec-

tric light plant, with a view to furnishing electric lights for our citizens. They built their plant about 200 feet east of where the Shell oil station is located, built their own equipment and installed it in their plant, put up a few poles and wires and soon we had electric lights on Main street and several other streets, and my, what an improvement over the old kerosene lamps! But we only had this service until midnight, and we had to get in by this time or take our old lanterns again.

John P. Hansen built the store building where I am in business . . . H. M. Bangs sold his drug business to John F. Sullivan and he continued the business for a good many years . . . H. M. Bangs started a new drug store in the new store building that Hansen built . . . Louis Frobish had a jewelry store in the east side of the Sullivan drug store . . . Cowen Bros. had the grain elevator on the south side of Main street across from the center business block . . . Geo. W. McCabe and family became residents. He built the house where Mrs. Frank Murtaugh lives and built a small bank building where The Plaindealer is located, and started the Commercial bank with S. Herr, Pres., John Fyan, vice pres., G. W. McCabe, cashier and E. M. Reising, assistant cashier. They did a banking business there for some years. Harry Cowl and William Hickey worked in this bank.

H. S. Sanford had a confectionery store in the building vacated by William Smith.

1896—Campaign year! We had some great political meetings, with band and torchlight processions and fire works and then listened to some great speeches on the tariff question.

Our town board gave the right to the central union telephone company to put up poles and telephone wire and in a very short time they had phones in some of our stores, and homes. In one

home where they had placed a phone, the ring, or call, came in for this home while the lady was busy doing her kitchen work. She had on a very soiled apron, so she hurried into her front room and quickly put on a clean apron and then to the phone where she said, "Hello, this is me."

1896—Dr. G. T. Carson bought the practice and equipment of Dr. M. H. McGrath and he and his family became residents of Chatsworth.

D. J. Stanford became proprietor of the electric light plant . . . S. L. Martin had a saloon in the building vacated by H. S. Sanford. . . . We had six passenger trains daily on the T. P. & W railroad, three going west and three east; and four on the I. C. railroad, two going south and two going north, and many freight trains on both roads and with the large shipments of grain and stock and merchandise shipped in the volume of business shown on the books of the railways was very satisfactory. The charges on freight received for 1897 were about \$10,000 and freight forwarded \$30,000; while the traveling public paid \$10,000 for tickets.

L. A. Walter took over the electric light plant.

Our post office was located in a frame building on the north end of the west corner lot in the center business block and H. S. Sanford was our postmaster . . . Paul Krohn and Frank R. Blakely, under the firm name of Krohn & Blakely started a bakery and confectionery in the Hansen building.

1898 — The Spanish-American war interfered some with business and everybody did their best to help in having this over with as soon as possible.

R. F. Brown was appointed to visit the towns on the I. C. railroad north of Chatsworth to recruit as many as possible for the Illinois first volunteer cavalry, so upon his advice I hurriedly got up a small band to accompany him or

this trip, with the following players: Jess Lantry, Junior Bass, Harvey Speer, baritone; Charles Speer, alto; myself, cornet; and Lester, drum. On this trip the freight and passenger trains willingly carried us from town to town and often waited for us at the different towns while we fulfilled our mission, and R. F. Brown obtained a great many volunteers. Frank Speicher, George Megquier, Frank Bangs, Ed Megquier, and R. F. Brown are some of the boys who went to the front from here. I am happy to say that all came back home except Frank Bangs, whom I am sorry to say, took sick and died in camp.

L. A. Walter and A. F. Walter dissolved their partnership, A. F. continuing the business and L. A. also closing out his interests in the electric light plant to the Illinois Public Service Company and purchasing the R. F. Brown Lumber company. The C. I. P. S. company built a new brick plant on Sixth street, one block south of Main street where they installed machinery taken from the old plant and also adding some new, and proceeded to furnish us with light and power.

1899 — The twelve large cisterns located in different parts of town to supply water to our fire engine in case of a fire are useless now since we have water mains and hydrants so they were all filled with dirt.

Joe Lechlieter had a cigar factory in the building vacated by S. L. Martin . . . New brick fire engine house, council room and jail built on the corner where the town hall and engine house was consumed by fire . . . Our town board had the first cement sidewalks put down. This seems like a permanent improvement . . . Art Slater and family became residents, he going into the poultry and produce business in a building that stood where The Grand is located . . . Dorsey Sisters started in the dry goods business in a build-

ing they purchased in the middle of the center business block . . . J. C. Corbett became a resident taking over the grain elevator from Cowen Bros. He also put in a lumber yard on the spot where the little park is located.

1900—I leased the west building from the J. P. Hansen interests, where I continued my confectionery oyster and music business . . . H. Pinko and family became residents, he being proprietor of the Baltimore Clothing House located in the building vacated by Joe Lechleiter, the Pinko family living upstairs . . . Fred Harbeke built a two story business building in the east block on the south side of Main street. The first story being used by different kinds of businesses while the second story was used as a public hall, where we had dances and different kinds of entertainment . . . F. M. Bushway had a dry goods store in the first story of the Smith building, where he did a nice business . . . C. H. Rohde had a grocery and queensware store in the east business block.

Stiefel, Fox and Traub had a clothing store where Ward Collins is in business . . . J. E. Fitzgerald had a confectionery and bakery in the first story of the two-story J. P. Hansen building.

1901 — J. C. Corbett and T. E. Baldwin started building "The Grand Opera House." A petition was presented to our town board to have the three blocks of Main street paved with brick. A contract was soon placed and work commenced . . . Art Slater moved his business into the vacated electric light plant . . . Dr G. T. Carson opened up a hospital in the second story of the Walter building, which place he owned and operated until his death in 1913.

Fire alarm sounded about four o'clock one morning when the Baltimore Clothing House was discovered to be afire on the inside. The fire company responded very quickly and soon had the

fire under control, more damage being done by smoke and water than by fire. The family was taken out of an upstairs window and down ladders to safety. Here was something that struck me as very funny: there was a traveling theatrical company giving a play in the Harbeke hall and in addition to the bills they had all over town advertising their play they had a large cloth sign about 3x20 feet tacked on the east side of the Baltimore Clothing House, reading, "A Runaway Match at Harbeke's Hall" in large red letters.

L. I. Doud, jeweler, had a jewelry store in the east side of the H. M. Bangs drug store . . . Sokol and Hartquest, tailors, did a nice tailoring business . . . Tom Fletcher came here with a theatrical company. The company seemed to be in financial difficulties. Tommy liked this town, so he decided to bring his family here and become citizens. He was an expert sign painter and did some very fine work along this line, especially for the Harbeke Hall and when The Grand was finished he did some nice advertising for its owners, and did the instructing and took the leading part in many home talent plays that were put on in The Grand.

Fire alarm was sounded early one morning when the I. C. elevator was discovered to be on fire and the fire company responded without delay. The fire had gotten such a start that they could not save the building and it was entirely destroyed. The I. C. depot was just across the track from the elevator, hence it was also burned to the ground.

1902—"The Grand" had its opening the night of October 17th, with that wonderful play, "A Ruined Life" by E. Laurence Lee, under the management of J. M. Ward and R. L. Cresay. Burch's orchestra furnished a fine musical program; reserved seats were sold at Haberkorn's store and a full house was in attendance.

Charles Burns built the two story brick store building on the east corner of the west business block, where he had a hardware store and also did much building and repairing of eaves troughs and spouting. Mike Meister built the two story brick building joining the Burns building on the west, where he had a saloon . . . Lou Wienand built the one story brick business building adjoining the Meister building on the west. Dr. W. T. Bell, dentist, had his office in the front room upstairs in the Burns building.

J. E. Roach and family became residents as did also Albert O'Neil and he and Roach under the firm name of Roach & O'Neil, started in the furniture and undertaking business in the east block on the south side of the street.

J. Q. Adams, a carpenter, and his family, became residents. He did a great deal of building for our citizens . . . Garrity and Baldwin started in the clothing business in the corner store room of The Grand . . . Thomas Pepperdine had a bakery and confectionery in the Hensen building.

The Baptist church was remodeled, rebuilt and made into a much finer and better church building . . . J. Q. Puffer bought Capt. Turner's grain elevator, coal and farm machinery business and also bought L. A. Walter's lumber business. He also built the west end grain elevator and built the residence for his home where Miss Lawless lives.

1903—A petition was presented to our town board asking them to have the electric light company give us all night service instead of service only to midnight. The company granted this request and we now have all night service and we can hang our lanterns on a hook.

J. E. Brown quit the banking business and S Herr retired from the Commercial bank and started the Citizens Bank in the building vacated by J. E. Brown, and also

built the home on the corner northeast of our city park, the family becoming residents. . . . William Cording became a resident, starting in the grocery business in the Mike Reising building in the center business block.

1904—George Strobel and family became residents. He was a butcher and started a meat market in the west end of the east business block on the south side of Main street . . . Roach and O'Neil moved their furniture and undertaking stock to one of the store rooms in The Grand, where they continued their business . . . Doud Bros. had a drug and jewelry store in one of the store rooms in The Grand . . . William Stockum succeeded Pepperdine in the Hansen building.

Instead of putting up canvas awnings which must be replaced every year or two, our merchants in the center business block had metal awnings placed in front of their store buildings extending from the east corner of this block to the Commercial bank. Some people called these awnings cow sheds, but I noticed that they were appreciated by the general public as a protection against rain, and the hot summer sun. These awnings were fastened to the front of the buildings, the outer end resting on gas pipe posts.

Pliney Dancey became a resident, going to work in the grocery store of William Cording . . . The I. C. Railroad Company built a new grain elevator and depot to take the place of the ones destroyed by fire, building the new elevator one block north of where the old one stood, and the depot on the opposite or west side of the track. The old depot was located on the east side of the track. Jas. Kerrins was appointed manager of the elevator.

1905—Dr. Seright built the two story brick business building on the second lot from the west corner of the east business block . . . A fine new brick Evangelical

church was built to take the place of the old one on the corner lot, on the west side of Third street, three blocks south of Main street. . . . Miss Marie Stevens had a photograph gallery north across the alley from the Walter store.

1906—Roach and O'Neil built a one story brick building in the west business block, where they enlarged and continued their business of furniture and undertaking . . . Mrs. J. E. Roach and her sister, Mrs. Van Duser, had a millinery store in a place next to the Roach & O'Neil store where they did a nice business . . . P. C. Tayler succeeded Stockum in the Hansen building.

Tom Entwistle bought the old Presbyterian church building and moved it to the west corner lot of this, his property, and with this building as a background he built a hotel which he ran for some time.

Special town board meeting to have a deep well sunk on the lot adjoining the fire engine house on the south. They let the contract for drilling this well, and also let the contract for the building of a new brick building for the machinery, pumps, and large steel pressure tanks.

B. P. Carney bought out F. J. Harbeke, where he continued the blacksmithing business . . . Chas. Kerrins became the owner of the old frame Catholic church building, had it moved to the lot north across the alley from the Burns hardware store and started a livery barn in this building.

1907—Doud Brothers sold their business in The Grand to H. Royal and Company, who continued the business . . . H. M. Trott and family became residents, he taking over the Cottage hotel and continuing the business . . . Ernst Ruehl and family became residents, he and his brother, L. T. having the lumber and building material yard near the I. C. railroad . . . Garrity & Baldwin bought the two-story Hansen store building and

moved their stock from the store room in the Grand to this building.

1908—The new water works building is finished and the deep well contractor struck a fine flow of good water at 1325 feet. Two large steel tanks have been placed in the building, as was also a good pump and gas engine, and soon the tanks will be filled with water. More water mains have been laid, and soon our homes and business houses will be able to have all the water they may need. We now have 38 fire hydrants from which our fire engine will receive water in case of a fire.

Our young men organized a dancing club and are having some fine dances in the Harbeke hall.

Phil Sampson, a barber, and family became residents. He had a barber shop in the basement of the Walter store . . . Tom Shaughnessy had a bottling works, or pop factory, in the center of the east business block . . . Frank W. Kaiser had a saloon in the center business block, where he conducted this business for a good many years.

1909—R. T. Haberkorn was appointed fire marshal by the town board and by the fire company, as their foreman . . . Geo. W. Rutledge was appointed station agent for the I. C. railroad . . . William C. Quinn became a resident, buying out the Sullivan drug store.

1910—S. H. Herr built the two-story brick business building on the west corner of the east business block and the Citizens Bank moved into this new building, where they still continue their banking business. The north end of this building was used for our post office, and the upstairs being used for offices.

J. C. Corbett took over (what was changed some time ago to) the Commercial National bank. John Ryan was the president. T. E. Baldwin, Vice President; J. C. Corbett cashier and John Brosnahan, assistant cashier. Chas.

F. Shafer, John Fischer, Martin F. Brown, Miss Zita Corbett, John Ryan, Jr., and "Red" Crawford worked in the bank at different times.

Fire alarm sounded real early one morning, when the Shaughnessy pop factory was discovered to be on fire. The fire company responded very soon but the building was afire all over and was entirely destroyed as were also several business buildings.

Theodore Haberkorn had a cement block factory on Fifth street on the south side of the T. P. & W. railroad. He was a mason and did a lot of building along the line of cement block, brick and stone work.

L. E. Waugh was appointed station agent for the T. P. & W. railroad . . . John R. Krahenbihl and family became residents. He being a jeweler, took over the stock of the late L. Frobish and continued the business . . . J. A. Kerrins is in the real estate business with an office over the Citizens Bank.

Our business men arranged and are having a very fine corn carnival, the town being nicely decorated and we are entertaining some very large crowds.

Matt Joyce is running the livery barn on the west side of Fourth street one-half block north of Main street . . . Morgan Ryan has a saloon in the center business block. John Riley and G. H. Frederick started in the grocery business in the east business block, under the firm name of Riley & Frederick.

1911—A. T. Spath, an osteopath, had his office in the second story of the Gardner business building . . . Art Slater leased, and managed, the Grand . . . Elon Steer had a drug store in the corner business room of The Grand . . . Charles O. Landwehr had a bakery and confectionery in the center business block.

Ira Pearson had a shoe store in the Seright building in the east

business block . . . Edward Robins had a harness shop in the east business block on the south side of the main street where he made some fine harness . . . E. Krebs and wife became residents, he taking over the Stevens art gallery . . . Louie Walker, a barber, took over the shop in the basement of the Walter building:

A. J. Sneyd had a hardware store in the center of the east business block . . . Brothers Henry and Robert Rosenboom, plumbers, had their shop in the rear of the Sneyd hardware store . . . Frank Price had a livery barn in the west business block . . . W. P. Turner became a resident, going to work in the shop of Louie Walker . . . William Traub took over the clothing business of Steifel, Fox & Traub.

1912—One Sunday afternoon about five o'clock a terrible storm came up, which soon disclosed itself to be a tornado approaching from the southwest. It dipped low enough to take about a 5-foot-square piece off the slate roof of the T. P. & W. depot, then raised and up over The Grand and down again where it picked up the two large metal awnings from in front of the L. J. Haberkorn and Garrity & Baldwin stores, parts of which were found one mile northeast of town. The frame Lutheran church was completely wrecked, barns and sheds were blown down and some larger buildings were slightly moved off their foundations, but at that we were very lucky as nobody was hurt or killed.

G. H. Frederick sold his interests in the grocery business to P. E. Trunk and the firm name was changed to Riley & Trunk . . . Charles Rosensweet had a rooming house in the second story of the Gardner building. He gave this up and started a picture show in one of the store rooms of The Grand . . . William Gardner started a hardware store in his store

building and lived upstairs with his family.

J. F. Dorsey had a produce business in one of the store rooms of the Harbeke building . . . Charles Kellogg had a barber shop and bathroom in the basement of the Burns building . . . Haberkorn's Parlor Orchestra was organized and was ready to furnish music for home entertainments . . . Smith, Buchannan Co. took over the Bushway dry goods business naming their place "The Star Store."

C. H. Rohde built a new two-story brick business building on the lot where the old one was destroyed by fire . . . Elon Steer moved his drug store to a building in the middle business block . . . Dr. M. H. Kyle became a resident. He was a veterinarian and did much to keep our horses and cattle in health . . . Arthur Cording took over the grocery business of his brother . . . Lawrence Hollywood had a meat market in the center business block . . . John Gelmer & Co had a garage in the east business block on the south side of Main street, where he sold and repaired automobiles, John Rosenboom being his master mechanic.

1913—Riley sold his interest in the grocery business to M. F. Brown and the firm name is now Trunk & Brown . . . John Silberzahn became a resident and bought the Carney blacksmith shop and continued the business some years . . . A nice, new brick Lutheran church building was built to take the place of the frame building that was wrecked by the tornado the last year . . . A. G. Norman, a shoemaker, had a shoe repairing and shoe store in a store room of the Grand . . . Frank Russell takes over the picture show from Rosensweet.

Ed Marxmiller and family became residents. He is a harness maker and went to work in the Robbins harness shop.

1914—Ray Arnold and Larry

Power had a barber shop in the basement of the Burns building . . . H. M. Trott and Tom Entwistle traded hotel properties, Mr. Trott taking the north side hotel which he named the "Antique Hotel," and which he ran for a number of years. Entwistle took the hotel property on the south side of town. He divided, or tore down some of the buildings and made several residences out of the material . . . Trunk bought Brown's interest in their grocery business and now has the business to himself . . . Dr. O. J. Sloan and wife became residents, he taking over the Dr. Carson hospital.

Brothers William and H. P. Baylor and families became residents, they taking over the general store of A. F. Walter, which they continued for some time . . . J. P. Baldwin took over the "Star Store" and continued the business.

1915—J. A. Leggate and family became residents, he opening up a lunch room in one of the store rooms in The Grand . . . Dr. F. Blumenschein, a dentist, became a resident, opening up a dental office over the Citizens bank, where he did some nice work for our citizens . . . Larry Power took over the barber business in the basement of the Burns building . . . William Lovenstein had a confectionery and ice cream parlor in a store room in The Grand.

Dr. F. W. Palmer and family became residents, he taking care of the sick and ailing for some years . . . C. N. Jacobs took over the motion picture show from Frank Russell and continued the same . . . J. A. Leggate moved his lunch room across the street into a building in the middle of the center business block . . . P. E. Prink bought The Plaindealer from Jas. A. Smith & Son and moved the plant into a building north across the alley from the Citizens Bank.

We were having a very cold winter and heavy snows and the

large metal awnings in front of the stores along the east half of the center business block became so loaded with snow and ice that they could not stand this awful weight, so one morning there came a terrible crash when the entire string of awnings collapsed. We were very lucky that no one was hurt or killed, being that this happened early in the morning and the weather so cold that there was scarcely anyone on the street. These large metal awnings were never replaced, smaller metal or canvas ones being put up in their place.

Mike Sampson has taken up the electrical business and did much wiring for our citizens, so they could have electric lights in places that up to this time did not have them.

1916—Joe Miller became a resident, taking the position of manager for the William Traub clothing store, and also took many different parts in our home talent plays . . . Dr. S. J. Whitmore, a dentist, became a resident, having his dental office over the Sullivan drug store . . . Sid Lee and Ed Lehman ran a livery barn on Fourth street, one-half block north of Main street . . . Roy Walker and wife became residents he being a representative of the Meyer Furnace Co. of Peoria, Ill. . . . W. P. Boyd has a ten cent store in a store room in The Grand . . . Albert O'Neil is appointed postmaster . . . Ed Cooney, a barber, became a resident, taking over the shop in the Walter basement . . . C. J. Schade buys Gelmer's garage.

1918—William O'Malley took over the picture show from C. N. Jacobs and continued the same . . . Pliney Dancey started a grocery store in the east business block naming his place "the Community Grocery" . . . Dr. O. D. Willstead and wife became residents, they taking possession of the O. J. Sloan hospital.

1919—Kohler Brothers bought

the grain elevator and coal business from Delaney & Fallon and continued the business . . . Chas. F. Shafer and family had been residents for some time. He opened an insurance and loan business in his building in the center block . . . S. J. Porterfield and family became residents, and S. L. Boeman also became a resident. These two gentlemen bought The Plaindealer from P. E. Prink and moved the printing plant to the east business block, where they continued publishing The Plaindealer, besides doing a lot of job work.

I am very happy to say that our community is religiously inclined. We have five very fine churches, each having a nice congregation. I am also pleased to know that we have some fine lodges and different clubs and all have nice memberships and all doing their best to make life more pleasant. BUT, it seemed to me that we should have some kind of an association that any member of any church, lodge or club could, and should become a member of, so with this thought in mind I was instrumental in having The Plaindealer give notice of a meeting to be held the evening of April 20th, in the Chas. F. Shafer building, with a view to forming this kind of an association.

The meeting was largely attended and after I had called the meeting to order and explained the object of the meeting and many had expressed themselves, it was decided to organize. The name chosen for this new organization was "The Chatsworth Community Builders' Association." We then proceeded to elect officers for the association, with the following results: L. J. Haberkorn, president; E. Ruehl, vice president; A. C. Huth, secretary; Geo. J. Walter, Treasurer. It was decided to hold regular meetings of the association the evenings of the third Tuesday of each month. After committees had been appointed to

arrange different matters by the time of the next meeting, adjournment was in order.

1920—C. Louis Ortman and his brother, Charles, and families became residents. The brothers went into the electrical business north across the alley from the Citizens Bank. They did a great deal of work for our citizens . . . Louis Clodi had a saloon in the old Hall & Crane building in the east business block.

The Farmers' Cooperative Company bought out Baylor Bros. and continued the general store, with L. E. King as manager . . . C. C. Morrow bought the grocery business of Art Cording and continued it, naming his place "The Cash and Carry" store . . . William Kueffner purchased the Mike Meister store building and William O'Malley moved his picture show from The Grand into this building.

Fire alarms was sounded early one morning when the garage in the east business block, on the south side of Main street was discovered to be on fire. The fire company responded promptly, as always, but in spite of all they could do the garage and contents and several other buildings were burned to the ground.

Mrs. J. E. Roach and sister, Mrs. Van Duser, sold their millinery business to Mrs. Lulu McMullen . . . Burl Norman took over his brother's shoe and shoe repairing store and continued the business.

1921—Geo. Strobel moved his meat market north across the alley from the west corner of the east business block, where he continued the business. George Corey has been, and is still his helper.

1922—The Community Builders' Association at one of their meetings thought it would be a good plan to have something different this fall, so they planned to arrange for a home coming and after talking over plans for this event

they decided to have this homecoming on Friday and Saturday afternoons and evenings, September 1st and 2nd.

It was further decided to make this a genuine homecoming, without any other attractions on our streets, or in town. We thought that in this way our homecomers would have a better chance to visit and talk over olden times. Committees were appointed to take care of the different matters, a canvas curtain eight feet high was placed around the railroad park and the open space west of the park and a large tent was placed in the west end of this enclosure, and some very fine entertainments were given on the stage in this tent.

Spencer's Band, of Peoria, Ill., furnished some very fine music each afternoon and evening. Admission to the grounds was 10c and to the tent 25c and 35c. We had a rest room and place for the homecomers to register in a store room across Main street, and as soon as they had registered they were given a badge to wear, showing them to be homecomers and this badge admitted them not only to the grounds but also to a seat in the tent for the entertainments.

1050 invitations were sent out to people who used to live here and about 400 graced the homecoming with their presence and all seemed to enjoy this visit with their old friends very much. This was one of the best entertainments ever held in our town and should have been repeated every five years. The expense of this event was about \$2,000 and was nearly self-sustaining which would have been the case but a small shower stopped the dance we were having on a platform that we had on the grounds.

The building of the Chatsworth Township High School which was started last year, has just been completed and soon our youths will be given the chance to obtain

a much more complete education.

1923—A. A. Raboin and family became residents, he buying S. L. Boeman's interest in the The Plaindealer . . . William Kueffner bought the picture show from William O'Malley and continued running the same . . . S. J. Porterfield is appointed our postmaster . . . J. W. Heiken and E. H. Sildorff buy the "Cash and Carry" grocery from C. C. Morrow and continue the same . . . Dan Tauber and family became residents, he buying the stock of the Farmers' Cooperative general store and continuing the business.

1924—J. W. Heiken purchased E. H. Sildorff's interests in the Cash and Carry grocery and continued the business . . . Martin Kueffner took over his father's picture show and named it "The Kozy," and continued running it. Charles Dennewitz became a resident, taking over the blacksmith and machine shop of Claus Beckman . . . P. L. McGuire, an undertaker, and his family became residents, he being employed by J. E. Roach . . . Chatsworth Manufacturing Company organized, with the object in view of manufacturing metal products . . . Gus Stone became a resident and accepted the position of manager for the Chatsworth Manufacturing Co.

1925—R. B. Stoddard bought the I. C. grain elevator.

1926—F. L. Livingston, a son-in-law of R. B. Stoddard, and his family became residents, he managing the buying and selling of grain at this elevator . . . L. B. Worman and family became residents, he taking over the management of the Chatco Metal Products Company, this company having taken the place of the Chatsworth Manufacturing Company . . . William Pepperdine and wife became residents. They had a very fine cafe in the west business block . . . Hunter Dunn purchased the Ruehl lumber, building material and coal yard and continued the business with Bert

Newman as manager.

1927—P. L. McGuire left the employ of J. E. Roach and started in the undertaking business for himself in rooms in The Grand . . . Joe Metzen and Jack Lannon purchased the Leggate restaurant and J. A. Leggate opened up a pool and billiard parlor in the west part of the center business block.

H. N. Sheeley, a chiropractor, became a resident, and had his office in a room over the Citizens Bank.

1930—The Commercial National Bank closed its doors February 26th. A receiver was appointed and after months of work it was decided the bank would not open again for business, and finally the receiver paid the depositors 51 7/10% on the dollar.

A. C. Ehman and family became residents, he doing a farm implement business in a store room in the center business block. . . . George Dennewitz became a resident, going into partnership with his brother, Charles, the firm name being Dennewitz Bros. . . . F. W. Kaiser buys the Smith store building and starts in it a moving picture show, naming his place the "Virginia Theatre," where he does a nice business, showing as fine pictures as are to be seen anywhere.

1931—Jack Lannon sold his interests in the restaurant to his partner, Joe Metzen. Frank Bell bought the Metzen restaurant and continued running same . . . Walter Fielding and family became residents, he opening a meat market in the center business block.

1933—C. G. Bartlett and wife became residents, he taking over the Hunter-Dunn lumber, building material and coal yard and continuing the same . . . J. A. Leggate buys back from Frank Bell the restaurant he formerly owned and is continuing same . . . Phil Gleason opened up a tavern in the center business block . . . Dewey Maplethorpe, a shoemaker, and his

family became residents, he opening a shoe shop in the east business block.

The bank problem all over the United States seems to be getting very bad and many banks are closing, or being closed, but our Citizens Bank, with F. H. Herr, president; Mary Herr, vice-president; E. B. Herr, cashier and S. H. Herr, assistant cashier, is still open for business.

The town board decided that our old fire engine had about finished its work, so they invested \$3,065.00 in a new one, and with a good volunteer fire company we are in a pretty good condition to fight fires.

On February 24th the Citizens Bank was closed temporarily by its officers and after talking matters over with their depositors, the bank officials asked their depositors to waive 40% of their deposits, which would put the bank in a position whereby they could again open up for business. The depositors granted this request and in a short time the bank was again doing business with the following officers: A. F. Walter president; H. A. Kerber and John Koehler, vice-presidents, S. H. Herr, cashier and C. E. Kohler, assistant cashier. Might also state that on March 4th, our government closed all banks. But under its new arrangement the Citizens Bank was soon permitted to open up for business.

1934—Kohler Bros. have added lumber and building materials to their grain and coal business . . . Wilford Graham succeeds Phil Gleason in the tavern business in the center business block.

1935—John F. Donovan appointed postmaster.

1936—Dr. and Mrs. H. L. Lockner became residents, he taking over the office and practice of Dr. Palmer, the office being over the Virginia Theatre . . . Max J. Trauring and family become residents, he opening up a clothing store in the building vacated by Garrity &

Baldwin . . . N. M. La Rochelle and wife become residents. He is the local manager of the International Harvester company and whose goods he sells . . . Geo. V. Robinson and wife become residents, he opening a clothing store in the store room vacated by Max J. Trauring . . . S. J. Porterfield bought the Commercial National Bank building and The Plaindealer plant was moved from the east business block into this building. An addition was built, increasing the length of the building, more new and improved machinery added and it made of this a better printing plant than very few towns of this size possess.

Ralph Newton and family became residents, he taking over the Cooney barber shop . . . The Clear Water Tank Co. started its manufacturing business here . . . Some time ago the name of the "Chatsworth Community Association" was changed to the "Chatsworth Community Club" and this club, at one of their meetings appointed the following members as a park committee: L. J. Haberkorn, W. C. Quinn, Robert Rosenboom, A. F. Walter and C. E. Kohler. The committee was instructed to try and get permission from the officials of the T. P. & W. railroad company to tile and drain the mud hole east of The Grand and make a small park of this space.

The committee got busy and after some correspondence and delays the officials of the railroad gave this committee permission to go on with this work. Our business men and park committee subscribed money to do the tiling, buy trees, shrubbery etc. Geo. J. Walter gave us the tile and now we have a beautiful little park on the south side of Main street opposite the center business block.

1939—Clear Water Tank Company moved to Danville . . . J. L. Johnson and family became residents he taking the position of station agent for the I. C. railroad

company, filling the place of Chas. Hammond, retired.

N. M. La Rochelle leased the large building on Sixth street on the south side of the T. P. & W. railroad, where he started a Sears & Roebuck store, buying at wholesale from this company and selling the goods at retail . . . The new Calvary Baptist church was built one block north of Main street and one-half block east of Sixth street.

1940—The town board appointed Henry Rosenboom fire marshal and the fire company elected him their foreman . . . William Haberkorn and family became residents, he starting a wood working factory in the south building of the Chatsworth manufacturing plant, where they are making all kinds of fancy articles out of wood . . . Sears & Roebuck go out of the wholesale business here and carry on only the retail business. Hence they buy out all the retail stores doing business under their name so N. M. La Rochelle again takes up the local management of the International Harvester company, having his headquarters in the east business block but the Sears & Roebuck company later concluded to continue this retail store here. A. P. Whistler and family became residents, he taking the management of this store.

1941—R. J. Lembke and family become residents of Chatsworth, he taking the place of A. P. Whistler as manager of the local Sears & Roebuck store.

1942—We now have the following in business here, including their assistants:

West Side—J. L. Johnson, station agent, I. C. Depot.

F. L. Livingston, manager of the Stoddard elevator; Howard Trinkle assistant.

Bartlett Lumber and Coal Co., C. G. Bartlett proprietor; Arvil Paul, assistant.

Chevrolet Garage and Oil Station, T. J. Baldwin, proprietor;

Tom Moore and Alan Entwistle, assistants.

Rooming House—Mrs. Winnie Walters, proprietress

Creamery and Produce—Carl G. Milstead, proprietor; Mrs. Milstead, assistant.

Boughton Garage and Oil Station, Mrs. Julia Boughton proprietress; Ray Banker and Earl Wigam, assistants.

J. E. Roach Furniture Company, J. E. Roach and Son, E. J., proprietors; Tom Somers, assistant.

Pool and Billiard Parlor, Hilko Remmers, proprietor; George Rosenberger, assistant.

Hardware and Repairing, T. E. Burns, proprietor.

Harold Krueger, Barber, in the basement of the Burns building.

Center Block—

Baldwin's Happy Hour Store James A. Baldwin, proprietor; Mrs. J. A. Baldwin, Miss Eldeen Hornickel, Raymond Endres, Earl Spence and Harry Jacobs assistants.

Masonic and Eastern Star lodges in hall upstairs.

Virginia Theatre Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Kaiser, proprietors; William Zorn and Alvin Brown, assistants.

John Deere Farm Implements, Ward Collins, manager; Joe Ribordy and James Fraher, assistants.

Tavern, Wiford Graham, proprietor, Joe Hummel, assistant.

General Store, Charles Dorsey, proprietor.

Cash and Carry Grocery, J. W. Heiken, proprietor; Mrs. Heiken and son, Jack, assistants.

Plaindealer office, S. J. Porterfield and son K. R. proprietors (also handle radios and refrigerators). Assistants, Miss Clarice Gerbracht, Mrs. August Crites and Raymond Rosenberger.

Individual Mausoleums Music and News, L. J. Haberkorn, proprietor; Miss Marie Klehm, assistant.

Clothing Store, Geo. V. Robinson proprietor. Leo Paul, assistant.

Cafe, R. B. Stephenson, proprietor. Mrs. H. V. Finefield, Mrs. Charles Wells, Mrs. Mary Wilkerson and Miss Rosana Nimbler assistants.

Confectionery, A. F. Gerbracht, proprietor; Mrs. A. F. Gerbracht and Mrs. Clinton Seright, assistants.

Dry Goods, Dorsey Sisters, proprietresses.

Chatsworth Locker Plant, Jas. Mauritzen and Donald Askew, proprietors. Raymond Gerbracht, Robert Askew, assistants.

Insurance and Loans, Chas. F. Shafer Proprietor; Mrs. Shafer, assistant.

Margaret's Beauty Shop, Mrs. Margaret Blatnick, proprietress.

Public Library, (in the Shafer building) Mrs. Alice Swarzwald, librarian.

Drug Store, Wm. C. Quinn, proprietor; Robert Milstead, assistant.

Telephone Office upstairs. Miss Myrtle Crites, manager. Miss Blanche Cline, Miss Margaret Watson, Mrs. Charlotte Burgess and J. W. Boyle, assistants.

Tauber's Mercantile Store, Mrs. Jane Tauber, proprietress. Miss Esther Leiser and Robert Tauber, assistants.

Kenneth Wells Barber Shop in Basement.

Wisthuff Hatcheries in building in rear of Tauber store. Albert G. Wisthuff proprietor; Clifton Sleeth and Lynwood Curtis, assistants.

South Side of Center Block

Grain Elevator, Kohler Bros., proprietors. William Tinker and W. B. Pearson, assistants.

Tavern, Leo Sneyd, proprietor.

Lunch Room, H. H. Gerbracht, proprietor. Mrs. Gerbracht, assistant.

Oil Station, Paul Trunk and Ray Marr, proprietors. They also handle Skelgas stoves and refrigerators, Alice Swarzwald and Kenneth McKinley, assistants.

T. P. & W. Station. Agent, Charles Seth.

East Business Block

Citizens Bank, A. F. Walter, President, (Deceased). H. A. Kerber and John Koehler, vice presidents. S. H. Herr, Cashier

In justice to our Citizens Bank I wish to state that this bank has paid in full the 40% waived by its depositors.

David's Economy Store. Jerome Bouhl, manager. Miss Mary Agnes Bouhl, assistant.

Modern Woodmen and Royal Neighbor lodges and American Legion in hall upstairs.

Barber Shop, William P. Turner, proprietor, in basement.

Tavern, Vincent O'Neil, proprietor. Norman Schraski, assistant.

Shoe Store and Repairing, Dewey Maplethorpe, proprietor.

Community Grocery, Pliney Dancey, proprietor. Harold Finefield, assistant.

International Harvester Company, N. M. La Rochelle, proprietor. F. W. Klehm, Glen Clester and La Verne Klehm, assistants.

Plumbing Shop, Furnaces, Bath Fixtures, etc., H. H. Rosenboom and Robert Rosenboom, in their new building, proprietors.

5c to \$1 Store, L. W. Baldauf, proprietor. Mrs. Baldauf and son, Maurice, assistants.

Beauty Shop, Miss Teresa Storr proprietress.

Chiropractor H. N. Sheeley, on Sixth street one-half block north of Main street.

East Block, South Side

Chatsworth Feed Mill, Clarence Frobish, proprietor.

Produce Company, Virgil Leathers, proprietor. Mrs. Leathers and brother, assistants.

Harness Shop, Ed Marxmiller, proprietor.

Garage and Oil Station, George A. Miller, proprietor.

Electric Shop, C. Louis Ortman, proprietor. Mrs. Ortman, assistant.

Brown Insurance Agency, second door north of Postoffice. M. F. Brown and R. A. Adams proprietors.

Funeral Home, Mrs. P. L. McGuire and son, Joe, proprietors, on Fifth street, four blocks north of Main street.

Funeral Home, J. E. Roach & Son E. J., proprietors, on Fifth street, one block north of Main street.

J. Lester Haberkorn, born on Main street, a vocalist all of his life, has traveled in every state of the Union with Chautauqua and Minstrel companies. The last 17 years he has had a vaudeville act with Karl R. Denton, of Ohio, naming their act, "Hab & Denton Stepping Out in Black and Tan," thus helping to put the name of Chatsworth on the map.

Clearing Cabinet Corporation, Wm. Haberkorn, proprietor, one-half block south of Main street.

We have the following churches and Schools: First Baptist Church, Rev. Oscar Creech. Lutheran Church, Rev. A. F. Karsten. Calvary Baptist Church, Rev. E. W. Crockett. Methodist Church, Rev. M. L. Sullins. Evangelical Church, Rev. J. V. Bischoff. Catholic Church, Rev. Father Markey.

Township High School, William Kibler, principal. Biography and General Science, Miss Louise Plaster. History, Miss Florence Mackey. English, Miss Elsie Stoutemyer. Commercial course, Miss Frances McCarthy. Manual Arts, Mr. Curtis Sherman. Also a fine school band, Mr. Franklin Juvinall, director. Phil Koerner, Jr., janitor.

Grade School—Vernon Hamilton, principal. Miss Aline Hostler, 6, 7th and 8th grades. 4th and 5th grades, Mr. Russell Kirkham. 2nd and 3rd grades, Miss Florinda Bauerle. 1st grade, Miss Lois Dawson. Music Teacher, Mrs. L. J. Bert. Janitor, Henry Wisthuff.

Convent School, Four Sisters of

Charity, teachers. Janitor, Ed F. Bouhl.

We also have doctors: Dr. H. L. Lockner and Mrs. Lockner, his assistant. Dentists, Dr. M. G. Collins. Attorneys, none. Police, Fred Schafer and Ed Pearson.

We have many freight trains but no passenger or mail trains on either road. Mail all comes in or goes out by truck and if we wish to go anywhere it almost looks as if we will be compelled to go back to horse and buggy days, or we may have to go afoot.

Our Brick and Tile Factory, Geo. J. Walter and son, A. G., proprietors, Mrs. A. G. assistant and a number of workmen are still turning out tile and brick by the thousands of a quality that is hard to beat.

Sears, Roebuck & Company, R. J. Lembke, manager. Assistants, Ben Brough, Frances Chadwick, Charles Bork, John J. Frantz, Claude King, Arleen Hallock, Stanley Hill and Edward Lang.

Chatsworth Hotel, Ann Matthias proprietress, on Fourth Street, one block north of Main St.

On route 24 we have the East End Oil Station, Ben Branz, proprietor. Shell Oil Station, O. V. Wilson, Manager. Hicks Oil Station, Lloyd Drilling, manager, Joseph Wittler, Arthur Donley and Lee Tornowski, assistants. Mobiloil Station, Blondie Walters, Manager. Standard Oil Station, Dennewitz Bros., proprietors.

Before closing this little history I wish to call to your attention the following named old settlers, including their good wives (nearly all of them gone to their great reward) who helped by their hard work, privation and sacrifice to make the country and our town what it is today:

Nicholas Froebe, William Herculese, John Monahan, Patrick Monahan, Philip Goembel, William Shols, Milo Miller, Joel Strawn, John Law, James Marr, Martin Huttenberg, James Law,

Louis Meisenholder, Chris Fesenbeck, Pete Van Weier, William Bell, S. Glabe, Edward Brady, Sr., Conrad Hornickel, John Donovan, Sr., Charles Dassow, Miles Desire, Timothy Desmond, James Ford, Sr., John Fischer, Sr., John Franey, Sr., John Gingerich, Sr., S. S. Hitch John Humel, Maurice Kane, Peter Kurtenbach, Sr., Martin Kueffner, Sr., Joseph Linn, Owen Murtaugh, Har Linn, Joseph McMahon, S. R. Puffer, Robert Rumbold, Charles Trunk, Adolph Haberkorn, Sr., Thomas Askew, Gustav Koehler, Daniel B. Puffer Jacob Gerbracht, Henry Ruppel, Adam Shafer, Mace Foreman, Malachi Garrity, George Blackwell, John Reinforth, William Hallam, Sr., Patrick Donovan, Edward Grosenbach Larry Farrell, Henry Baltz, John Baltz, Sr., T. J. O'Connor, James Snyder.

For many years we have not had a resident attorney which almost caused me to forget to mention my old friend and attorney, Charles D. Cary. He became a resident here some years ago and helped to make this place a peaceful, law abiding community, and we succeeded so well in our undertaking that we have not had any business for an attorney for years.

He left us and became a resident of Kankakee, Illinois. We were sorry to have him leave here but what was our loss was Kankakee's gain. Another thing, he did not seem to be able to find a life partner here, but was successful in finding one in Kankakee, and later on he and his wife took up their home in California, so, after all is said and done, I wish him and Mrs. Cary good luck, the best of health and many years of happy life.

Time surely brings changes; are we becoming more sensible, more civilized or what? I made mention in the early part of my history "And no matter how hard we tried to be good, there was always someone getting themselves,

or others, into trouble, and with three resident attorneys if there was a day passed without a lawsuit of some kind, we considered it a dull day" but now, just look at us, we have not had a resident attorney for years (no work for him) and if we have a lawsuit once a year, we wonder "What's the matter?"

Our town council is composed of the following citizens: Mayor Joseph J. Dietz.; Aldermen George V. Robinson, Albert Wisthuff, Homer Gillett, Charles Culkin, William Tinker and Burnell Watson. Town Clerk, Robert Borgman.

And, now, kind friends, and you are my kind friends, I want to thank one, and all of you for what you have done for me in the 75 years that I have made this fine little town my home, and especially do I wish to thank you for the business that you have given me in the 60 years that I have been in business on our main street.

In all these years I have done my best to help promote the best interests of our town and thereby helping in making it a better place in which to live. I did not grow rich in these 60 years, but I am thankful for the good health, and good living I have enjoyed these many years, and I also feel good for having treated others as I myself wish to be treated.

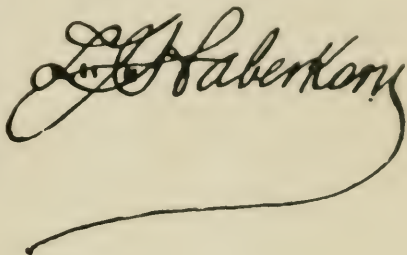
Don't fail to come in and see me—you are always welcome, and if I have anything that you wish to buy we will be pleased to sell it to you, but don't feel that you must drop money in the till every time you step into our store, but come in any time, if only to say, "Hello, L. J. and folks." And don't forget that some of the best things of life cannot be bought with money, so try and be satisfied,, happy and thankful to God that you're living in the good old UNITED STATES, and whenever you become just a little bit dissatisfied, or discouraged, just look around a little bit and you will al-

ways see someone who has been more unfortunate, and is worse off than you are, so thank God again for where you are, and what you are.

In closing my little history kindly let me say: That I did my best to give you the history of our home town as I have seen it. I had very little data from which to write this little history, depending mostly on my memory for the points I wished to cover, so if I have omitted mentioning some occurrences, or forgotten to mention someone's name, and I know that I have, kindly excuse me, as no one can do more than their best, and this I tried to do, and kindly

let me say further: I hope some one of our little fellows running around on our streets will live to see the age of 80 and will then take up, and write, "The History of Chatsworth, beginning where I left off and continue same as he has seen it and add it to my little history. So wishing you all good luck and the best of health,

Your friend,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Z. H. Haberkorn". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.









UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS-URBANA
977.361H11H C001
HISTORY OF CHATSWORTH, ILLINOIS CHATSWO



3 0112 025394708